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● DUCHESS OPENS NEW ACADEMY AND LEISURE CENTRE

'Local' Kate makes a splash among friends



■ A GIFT FOR PRINCE GEOEGE: Kate accepts a duck rubber ring to help her baby son learn to swim from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea where she opened the new £29.4 million leistre complex

THE Duchess of Cambridge was welcomed as a 'local resident' at three engagements in North Kensington on Monday.

Kate visited local charity Family Friends before officially opening the Kensington Aldridge Academy and Kensington Leisure Centre, just minutes away from her permanent residence at Kensington Palace.

Six-months pregnant Kate wore a powder blue coat and blue floral print dress, both from her favourite maternity clothing line Seraphine, with navy blue heels causing speculation that she may be expecting a brother for 18-month-old Prince George. The cashmere blend coat has already sold out on Seraphine's website but is available in navy.

As she arrived at volunteering charity Family Friends, which supports the most disadvantaged families in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, children from the nearby school, La Petite Ecole Francaise, waved French and Union Jack flags, and welcomed her with a sign that said 'Bienvenue'.

Kate waved to the school children on the surrounding balconies before being introduced to chairman of the trustees, Elizabeth Jack, charity founder Sheila Paget,

● LWN reporting and photographic team:
RICHARD AUSTIN, FRANCESCA EVANS & CHARLOTTE WELCH

trustees Chris Madel, Clare Liley, Andrew Duncan and Tina Bexon, chief executive Flora Taylor and head of service development for the Catholic Children's Society, Greg Brister.

Relaxed to meet staff

The expected heightened security, as seen at her visit to The Fostering Network in Islington on Friday, was less visible at yesterday's events and Kate seemed relaxed to meet staff, volunteers and local families at a coffee morning.

Elizabeth Jack, chairman of the trustees, said: "The visit is enormous, it will help raise our profile and attract more volunteers."

"We have a particular need for male volunteers to expand our child befriending scheme. We do 50 per

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



■ LISTENING INTENTLY: Kate chats to volunteers at the Family and Friends charity in North Kensington which won a Queen's Award

THE paper serving the HEART of London

'It's essential that we get empty properties back into use'

Big Issue partnership to provide jobs and homes

The Mayor, Boris Johnson, is forming a partnership with Big Issue Invest to renovate empty properties into new affordable homes and create work opportunities for adults with a history of homelessness or long-term unemployment.

The Mayor has awarded a £10 million loan from his Housing Covenant to Big Issue Invest, who help small community organisations to renovate empty homes or buildings to convert them into good quality affordable housing for Londoners to rent or part buy.

The funding will revolve over a 10-year period and result in up to 400 empty homes being transformed into good quality low-cost housing. In addition it will provide long term unemployed people, veterans and out of work young people from across London the opportunity of employment and training in construction.

The Mayor's Housing Covenant supports organisations proposing innovative ways of delivering affordable housing through a Revolving Fund and is one of a number of housing schemes the Mayor is delivering to boost affordable housing, stimulate building and fast track the deliv-

ery of thousands of much needed new homes.

The proportion of empty homes in the capital has fallen, and at 0.7 per cent is now at the lowest level since the 1970s. Over 5,000 empty homes have been brought back into use through GLA housing programmes since 2008.

Mayor Johnson said: "With the huge demand for housing it's essential we get empty properties back into use, which is why I'm helping innovative projects renovate them back into much needed affordable homes."

'Big Issue Invest are masters of boosting community social enterprise and delivering key em-



FROM THE
MAYOR'S
OFFICE

ployment and training skills to the homeless and unemployed people who need our extra support. This funding sits alongside my affordable home programme which is on track to deliver 100,000 new low cost homes across the city."

The Big Issue Group's chairman, Nigel Kershaw, said: "This is really exciting, the fund helps to extend The Big Issue's mission of preventing and dismantling poverty and creating opportunity. That we are offering homes and employment opportunities to vulnerable people makes this so important to us, as it's all about preventing people ending up on the streets."

Big Issue Invest is a specialist provider of finance to social enterprises. It provides investment from £50,000 to £1.7million and develops innovative financial solutions which help organisations tackle poverty and create opportunity.

Since 2005 Big Issue Invest has invested over £27m across the UK in more than 330 social enterprises, directly benefitting over 1.8m people, sustainably employing 3,200 and training 14,000.

The new loan will allow Big Issue Invest to finance and support more innovative housing

projects undertaken by social enterprises and charities. These projects will serve to increase the volume of affordable housing available in London, whilst creating employment and training opportunities for vulnerable people.

The Mayor's commitment to getting empty homes back into use and boosting affordable housing is part of a package of wider measures he is promoting to stimulate house building. The Mayor also supports a number of rough sleeping services to help ensure no one should sleep rough on the capital's streets.

These services include No Second Night Out, which has seen around three out of four new rough sleepers spending just a single night on the street since the project started, and the £5m Social Impact Bond programme helping long-term rough sleepers rebuild their lives over three years.

Last week the Mayor visited a number of these services across London and met a number of people with a history of homelessness the schemes are supporting.



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Apprenticeship Scheme

WESTMINSTER City Council is committed to helping young people into employment and is very proud of the apprentices on its Apprenticeship Scheme. It has been a huge success with positive feedback from both apprentices and line managers.

Apprenticeships are an excellent way of gaining qualifications, work based skills and experience with all apprentices provided with relevant workplace placements and training from a recognised OFSTED provider.

The council's current apprenticeship programme is delivered in partnership with the London Apprenticeship Company with opportunities at the council advertised on their website.

Kensington & Chelsea

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London stands firm with Paris in the fight against terrorists



■ **UNITED IN DEFIANCE AND GRIEF:** Many hundreds of people gathered in Trafalgar Square after the terrorists attacks in Paris to welcome the red, white and blue of the French Tricolour beamed onto the National Gallery and other London landmarks

Soho 'in danger of disappearing'

■ FROM PAGE ONE

Save Soho has been set up to be that missing part of the Society and to give exposure to concerns of the pressure facing Soho."

Mr Hardcastle said he welcomed the Society's new alliance with the Save Soho campaigners.

"This is certainly worthwhile," he said, "Soho is in danger of disappearing slowly and by stealth if we are

Public can help stop terrorist attacks before they happen

■ FROM PAGE ONE

"Members of the public may spot such activities, and if reported in time, a planned terrorist attack may be stopped before it happens."

Director General Parker said MI5 knows that 600 extremists from the UK have travelled to Syria and "a significant proportion has joined ISIL".

He added: "Not all British extremists who have travelled to Syria will want to mount attacks in the UK when they return. But some do have that intent."

"Some have already tried to carry out acts of terrorism here. We have stopped three UK terrorist plots in recent months. Deaths would certainly have resulted otherwise."

"Terrorist-related arrests are up 35 per cent compared with four years ago. Since 2010, more than 140 individuals have been convicted for terrorism-related offences."

"But we cannot be complacent. Although we and our partners try our utmost, we know that we cannot hope to stop everything."

not careful. It is important that it is preserved as the creative centre that it has been for the past 200 years.

"Soho is different and its essence must be maintained. All sorts of people and creative businesses

have a stake in Soho and all sorts love the place. If people want Soho to be preserved as it is then we have

to fight for it and we have to all fight together."

Mr Arnold said that key to the campaign was preservation of small clubs and venues where new artists could begin their careers, as they have done for decades.

"This is not just a local issue, it is a national issue," said Mr Arnold.

"The entertainment industry needs these small venues where new artists can perform. It is imperative that this new talent is nurtured as it always has been."

"Without small basement clubs to play in the Sixties, The Who might not have got a record deal. But this is not a nostalgia fest – to be more up to date, without the Black Gardenia club in Dean Street a huge modern artist like Paloma Faith would not have had her launch pad."

"She's gone global and she started in a tiny club in Soho."

Mr Arnold said it was crucial that small clubs were protected and preserved from rent-hiking developers and the intrusive march of Crossrail or else Soho could become a rich-only zone.

"We must have these little clubs with a reasonable door price and not these places where it is £1,000 a table where you only get in if you know someone of influence."

"Soho is cherished all over the world and the reason

why it is cherished is because of its little clubs and its character. It is not a corporate zone and it must not be allowed to become a place that is exclusive to only the rich."

● **If people want Soho to be preserved as it is then we have to fight for it and we have to all fight together** ●

we want at least 100 small clubs in Soho, there are 50 at the moment."

Mr Arnold also revealed that as a number of the Save Soho campaigners are wealthy and successful they may start to buck the trend of small clubs closing by starting up their own club.

"That has been mentioned already, it's been talked about and it is definitely something that will be discussed," he said.

Already the campaign has won the support of the capital's heavyweight champion, Mayor of London Boris Johnson.

In a letter to Save Soho, Mr Johnson said: "I believe that culture is the DNA of this great city. People from all over the world come to Soho to enjoy its unique character and history. I will be talking to the Leader of Westminster Council urging her to protect the distinctive character of the area."

"This campaign is not going to end or go away," said Mr Arnold. "It is going to be bigger."

WITH Trafalgar Square lit up by the Tricolour, following the terrorist attacks in France, Mayor Boris Johnson said the display demonstrated London's "solidarity" with Paris.

With the red, white and blue of the French flag illuminating the National Gallery and the fountain in Trafalgar Square, the Mayor said the decision to illuminate the London landmarks was a demonstration of "our feelings of unity in grief and in outrage and determination of these two great historic cities of freedom to stand together in the fight for that freedom".

The Tricolour was also beamed onto Tower Bridge and lights on the the London Eye were dimmed to allow a similar spectacle at County Hall.

Hundreds gathered in Trafalgar Square to honour the victims of the Paris massacres and express defiance against the killers.

Mr Johnson said: "What we are trying to get over here with a great, great

By PHILIP EVANS

show of unity by Londoners is that the people who committed the atrocities in Paris had one objective only and that was to divide our societies and to divide our communities one from another and to foster mistrust and hatred and suspicion.

Support for victims

"The worst thing possible would be to allow them to succeed. That's why it's so important that so many voices from across the nation, across every community, across all religions, have joined together to denounce what happened in Paris and to show support for all the victims."

Many in the Trafalgar Square crowd waved French flags and a wreath of pens was laid on the ground filled with

flowers with placards reading "Je Suis Charlie"

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg was among the crowds, and told *Sky News* there was a "striking dignity" about people coming together spontaneously to "show their quiet disgust at what happened".

He said: "The attacks in Paris were not just an attack on our physical security but also on the values of freedom of expression which are so important to all European societies and something that we share on either side of the Channel."

He added that mockery, which the terrorists tried to silence, is part and parcel of what "living in a free, open and democratic society is about".

WHY I LOVE SOHO



LONG established as one of London's most vibrant entertainment districts, for much of the 20th century, Soho had a reputation as a base for the sex industry in addition to its night life and as a location for the headquarters of leading film companies.

Since the 1980s, the area has undergone considerable transformation. It now is predominantly a fashionable district of upmarket restaurants and media offices – home to industry, commerce, culture and entertainment, as well as a residential area for both rich and poor.

Soho remains one of London's most charismatic areas in which to live and work – and that's why we are launching a new "Why I Love Soho" feature.

If you live or work in Soho we would like you to send us five reasons why you love Soho (maximum 300 words) so much.

Email your five "Why I Love Soho" reasons to

editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk stating your name, address or place of work, and attaching a photo of yourself.

◆ **Copies of the London Weekly News are available in Soho from the Co-op in Berwick Street.**

New shopping bag for Carnaby Street

STUDENT WINS DESIGN COMPETITION

WESTMINSTER Kingsway College Fashion student Shaniqua Christian has won a design competition organised by Shaftesbury PLC to design a limited edition fabric shopping bag for London's famous Carnaby Street.

The 20 year old fashion student won the top prize of £150 for her design but also had the added bonus of working with creative agency Sister and seeing her design put into production as the latest limited edition bag for shoppers in the exclusive Carnaby Village. Her design will be reproduced on 2,000 limited edition bags, which will be available to customers making purchases in stores including Dr Martens, Lyle & Scott, David Naman, SuperTrash and Cubitts.

Westminster Kingsway College student Shaniqua said: "I was really surprised to win the competition as I didn't think that I would win! I am looking forward to seeing my design on a real bag. I did a short fashion styling course before coming to Westminster Kingsway College as I wanted to continue my studies. The Fashion course helps to teach you how to carry out a design process from an initial idea right through to the finished product. The College lecturers are really helpful as they give lots of constructive feedback. I would like to design unisex wear and prints in the future and I would also like to get into editing."

Design and Fashion students studying at Westminster Kingsway College's King's Cross Centre were asked to create designs that captured the essence and personality of Carnaby and would engage with the target consumers. Six students from the BTEC Level 3 Fashion course were shortlisted and interviewed by a panel of creative experts at Shaftesbury PLC's headquarters with Shaniqua's design chosen as the eventual

By LWN Reporter

winner.

Emma Steele, from Shaftesbury PLC, said: "Shaftesbury have been delighted to work alongside Westminster Kingsway College. The work produced by the students has been of a very high standard and it's been fantastic to see such enthusiasm in the students and a true understanding of Carnaby as a unique and iconic shopping and dining destination. We can't wait to see shoppers carrying the finished bag in Carnaby."

Kim Caplin, Vice Principal, Westminster Kingsway College said: "A great deal of work went into creating the designs for the Carnaby bag competition over two months involving Westminster Kingsway College students and staff and our Student Innovation Society."

Real life commercial brief

"The design competition provided an insight into the professional world and was an excellent opportunity for college fashion and design students to express their creativity within the setting of a 'real life' commercial brief and we are delighted for Shaniqua that she has seen her design become a reality."

Westminster Kingsway College also hosted an exhibition of the student finalists' designs for the Carnaby bag competition with guests including sponsors Shaftesbury PLC, college staff and the students' families and friends.

Carnaby is in the heart of London's West End, two minutes away from Oxford Circus and Piccadilly Circus, where over 150 brands of quality and distinction and over 50 independent restaurants and bars can be found across 13 streets, including the world famous Carnaby Street. Carnaby is a unique and iconic exper-



■ WESTMINSTER Kingsway College student Shaniqua Christian, winner of the Carnaby Street Bag Design Competition, pictured with Andy Wilson, Principal of Westminster Kingsway College and Emma Steele from Shaftesbury PLC

iential shopping and dining destination, not to be found anywhere else in the world. [@CarnabyLondon](http://www.carnaby.co.uk).

Westminster Kingsway College offers a wide range of full-time and part-time courses giving students the opportunity to gain vocational, professional and academic qualifications at different levels. The College

is one of the largest colleges in central London with Centres in Camden and Westminster. It has about 14,000 students across all age ranges and offers 16-19 year old further education as well as a wide range of vocational, professional and academic courses for adults. [@Westking](http://www.westking.ac.uk)

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■ APPRECIATED: Westminister Library and archives volunteers line up with the Lord Mayor, Councillor Audrey Lewis

Recognition for library volunteers

LOCAL people who gave their time to volunteer in Westminster's libraries and archives last year have been recognised at an event hosted by the Lord Mayor of Westminster.

Over 160 volunteers were invited to attend the event at Westminster City Hall. Between them they gave 10,000 hours of their time to Westminster's Libraries, Archives and Culture Services during 2014.

Their contribution to the cultural life of the city ranges from providing IT support, volunteering at adult reading groups, helping out at homework clubs and encouraging children to read through the national Summer Reading Challenge.

Over-65s are another group to benefit through the Out and About free ticket scheme, where volunteers offer to accompany older residents to cultural events including concerts and the theatre.

The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Audrey Lewis, welcomed volunteers at the event and thanked them for giving their time to help others make the most of the services and activities on offer.

Her remarks were reiterated by Cllr Steve Summers, Westminster City Council Cabinet Member for Sports, Leisure and Open Spaces, who said:

"It is really encouraging to see so many volunteers

giving their time to cultural services in Westminster. The range of activities they participated in during 2014 was remarkable.

"Each volunteer has made an invaluable contribution to the library, archives and culture service. There are a huge number of ways people can get involved, and I look forward to meeting many more volunteers in 2015."

Each volunteer was presented with a certificate at the event in recognition of the time they have given to cultural services in Westminster.

Jessica Marshall, who volunteers on the Summer Reading Challenge, said:

"I first got involved in the Summer Reading Programme by seeing a flyer for it in my local library and I applied because I wanted to help children with their reading."

"I've used the experience to improve my public speaking skills and also my confidence. I've also mentioned it as part of my UCAS application, which has helped me to secure four university offers."

For more information on how to get involved with Westminster's Libraries, Archives and Culture Services, visit: <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/volunteer-libraries-archives-and-arts>

'Local' Kate makes a splash among friends

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Kate waved to the school children on the surrounding balconies before being introduced to chairman of the trustees, Elizabeth Jack, charity founder Sheila Paget, trustees Chris Madel, Clare Liley, Andrew Duncan and Tina Bexon, chief executive Flora Taylor and head of service development for the Catholic Children's Society, Greg Brister.

Relaxed to meet staff

The expected heightened security, as seen at her visit to The Fostering Network in Islington on Friday, was less visible at yesterday's events and Kate seemed relaxed to meet staff, volunteers and local families at a coffee morning.

Elizabeth Jack, chairman of the trustees, said: "The visit is enormous, it will help raise our profile and attract more volunteers."

"We have a particular need for male volunteers to

● LWN reporting and photographic team:
RICHARD AUSTIN, FRANCESCA EVANS & CHARLOTTE WELCH

expand our child befriending scheme. We do 50 per cent parent befriending scheme and 50 per cent child befriending scheme.

"A lot of families are single parents with no male role model who need support and particularly boys who need a male role model."

"We are thrilled with her visit and grateful for her interest in our work."

Flora Taylor, chief executive of Family Friends, said: "The visit provides a tremendous amount of recognition of our work and gives us the chance to bring the charity to a wider audience."

"We recruit volunteers from all walks of life and we are hoping people will develop an interest in it."

"It raises awareness as this is not the prosperous borough that people think it is, there is deprivation and struggling families."

Janette Shaw, a volunteer with Family Friends, commented: "We talked about why we got involved with the charity, how it came about and what we got from it. She genuinely seemed interested."

Local mum Marie-Christine Nibagwire added: "She asked me how I got to know Family Friends, the way I connected with the charity and the impact it has had on my life and family."

Volunteer Joyce Berchie said: "She is an inspiring lady, she has taken the time to find out what we do and that really inspires me."

Before leaving the coffee morning, two-year-old Ryan Dixon was asked to present the Duchess with a posy of flowers but, suffering from a bout of shyness, called out for his mum, Tracy Samuels.

Kate replied: "That's exactly what George would say - 'mummy, mummy'."

Thanking the Duchess, Ms Jack said: "We are very grateful for you coming to visit today, thank you very much - our local resident."

Kate then went on to the new Kensington Aldridge Academy and Kensington Leisure Centre, built on the site where her husband, the Duke of Cambridge, and brother-in-law Prince Harry, learnt to swim during their time at Wetherby School.

Her Royal Highness was greeted by crowds of children waving flags before being given a tour of the £28 million academy, meeting principal David Benson, students and staff and sitting in on a geography and RE lesson.

The Duchess then enjoyed a short presentation from students in the theatre before unveiling a plaque to commemorate her visit.

Before leaving she visited the academy's Creates Hub for young entrepreneurs and met students who are designing items for sale at Portobello Road Market.

Kate then toured the £29.4 million state of the art facilities at the leisure

centre and watched sporting displays from local primary school children and other community groups.

She also met those involved with the project and unveiled a second plaque to mark her visit.

Councillor Nick Paget-Brown, leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, said: "We are greatly honoured that Her Royal Highness has visited us today to see the two flagship buildings that will make such a difference to people of all ages in this community."

Sir Rod Aldridge, founder of the academy's lead sponsor, the Aldridge Foundation, said: "We had a rare opportunity to work with the Royal Borough to create a new, exceptional academy to join our

and the council's respective families of schools.

"We planned for an academy that would deliver the highest standards of attainment, building on success already achieved in neighbouring primary schools."

"I am confident that it will make a real difference to our students and to the local community it serves."

"The Duchess together with Prince William opened our first academy in Darwen, Lancashire in 2011 in what was one of the last official engagements they carried out before their wedding."

"We are thrilled that Her Royal Highness opened this wonderful new school in Kensington today."

"Now customers are following me online, I can give them a heads up on the latest trends"

Tiffanne Williams, hairdresser in London



■ A GIFT FOR PRINCE GEOEGE: Kate accepts a duck rubber ring to help her baby son learn to swim from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea where she opened the new £29.4 million leisure complex

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THE ROYAL VISIT

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Kensington Kate's star quality



Kensington Kate lived up to her name as she got to know the neighbours across the road, thrilling the borough by popping in for tea and a chat with new friends.

Her profile and morale-boosting trip to meet charity workers and students of North Kensington brought out

the flags and the cheers as she gave a royal boost to an area not used to rubbing shoulders with a princess.

The Kate Factor has been praised around the world for the influence she has on fashion but here it took on a new importance, as one mum to another she listened sympathetically to mothers and volunteers dealing with much tougher lives than on the posher side Kensington.

That she made the ef-

fort to show her interest and lent her star quality to worthy causes will be remembered here

for many years to come.

As Joyce Berchie, a volunteer at Family

Friends, put it: "She has taken the time to find out what we do, and that really inspires me."



■ THE Duchess of Cambridge getting to know her neighbours at the Family Friends Charity



PHOTO SPECIAL: DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE VISITS THE FAMILY FRIENDS CHARITY IN NORTH KENSINGTON



THE ROYAL VISIT

editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

shines on her home borough



■ THE Duchess of Cambridge clearly enjoyed her visit to the Aldridge Academy and new Leisure Centre where she was presented with a special gift by the Mayor, Councillor Maighread Condon-Simmonds (see left)



PHOTO SPECIAL: DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE OPENS ALDRIDGE ACADEMY AND LEISURE CENTRE

Devastating raid on Salvation Army centre

THE Portobello Road community is in shock after heartless vandals broke into the landmark Salvation Army centre and trashed the premises, stealing thousands of pounds worth of equipment regularly used by local groups and even taking toys collected for children of poor families.

The burglars smashed down doors and broke cupboards and cabinets in a fevered attack on the

● By LWN reporter **GEOFF BAKER**
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

135-year-old centre which is used weekly for meetings of everyone from pensioners to toddler groups.

The community centre was completely ransacked by the cruel raiders who took everything of any value.

The burglars took computers, an £800 keyboard, the entire PA system, a 50-inch TV, projectors and other precious equipment.

They also took food that was being collected for needy families and nine postman's sacks of toys that the Army was planning to donate to local disadvantaged children.

"We are devastated and the community is appalled," said Major Paul Scott, who runs the centre with his wife Dawn.

"Everybody who uses the centre is shocked. It's not just used for the usual Salvation Army activities; we have toddler groups who meet here, disabled singing groups, mothers who sing with their babies, pensioners' lunch clubs, it's long been somewhere for all parts of the community.

"The culprits forced open a window, entered the premises and smashed down doors into various rooms. Office cupboards and cabinets were forced open and papers were thrown all over the floor.

"Even food was taken which was being stored

Even food was taken which was being stored to give to families struggling to make ends meet as well as a lot of toys which we were collecting for needy children

to give to families struggling to make ends meet as well as a lot of toys which we were collecting for needy children.

"What these people don't realise is that money does not just land at our feet. What we've lost represents an awful lot of hard work by old ladies who do a coffee morning here every week for very little return."

But Major Scott is determined not to be beaten by the burglars; with a team of volunteers the centre was tidied up over the weekend and will re-open this week as workmen repair the building which celebrates its 135th year of serving the community this year.

An appeal has been launched to raise try funds to make the centre right again. Anyone wishing to donate should contact Major Scott at notting.hill@salvationarmy.org.uk

● RESIDENTS are invited to the next Kensington and Chelsea Safer Neighbourhood Board on Monday, February 9th from 6pm to 8pm in Committee Room 1 at Kensington Town Hall.

The board is the primary way for residents to get involved and find out what is happening with policing and community safety in the borough.

The system was started by the Mayor of London

don's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). The board has a number of functions including establishing local policing and crime priorities as well as monitoring police performance and confidence.

Residents will have an opportunity to ask questions at this meeting and can be submitted in advance by email to Olivia Leu at olivia@kcsc.org.uk

For more information and to attend go to www.kcsc.org.uk/network-forum/snb.



■ TRASHED: The Salvation Army Centre in Portobello Road

Are you registered to vote?

AS the countdown to the General Election on Thursday 7 May 2015 begins, residents of the Royal Borough are being encouraged to make sure they are on the Electoral Register.

As part of a national initiative to help deal with the lack of younger people taking part in elections and being registered to vote 'Bite the Ballot' are running National Voter Registration Day on Thursday, February 5th and there are four main ways to get involved. To find out more go to www.nvrd.co.uk

If you are entitled to be on the Electoral Register but are not currently you can register by going to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.



NEWS FROM NICK ...

with Nicholas Paget-Brown, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Less tea and buns!

ONE of the things I do as Leader of the Council is to try and visit as many council departments, residents' associations, voluntary organisations and partner bodies as I can.

Inevitably that means I am offered a great many cups of tea, often accompanied by biscuits, sometimes even cake.

One of the sacrifices I make on behalf of the people of Kensington and Chelsea is to say 'yes' to those delightful co-mestibles and as a result the pounds have been piling on.

In 2015, I intend to do something about that. I will be sticking to just one rich tea rather than six and if I eat cake at all, it will be as an alternative to pudding, rather than an addendum.

But I'm also going to

take some exercise and when it comes to exercise Kensington and Chelsea is awash with opportunity and I'm not talking about Yogabox classes in an exclusive £100 a month gym either.

Get in trim

The gym at the Chelsea Sports Centre in the Old Town Hall was refurbished only last year and is a great place to get trim, and can be combined with a swim in the pool.

Our new North Kensington leisure centre opens very shortly and will be one of the best in London but you don't even need to visit a leisure centre. Did you know we have open air gyms in Holland Park and Little Wormwood Scrubs?

Or, if your taste is for something gentler, that we lay on a range of health walks too? There

really is so much on offer, but don't take my word for it, check it out yourself on our website under leisure and culture.

Actually when it comes to health and longevity, we are faring quite well in the Royal Borough but it's foolish to think that further progress is inevitable.

Indeed there is some troubling data emerging about childhood obesity in parts of Kensington and Chelsea. Let's not allow our generation to be the apogee of good health; we want our children to have more years of good health than us, not less. For that we need to make sure they grow up in and absorb a culture of good diet and exercise.

It's up to us to show them the way, even if it does mean less tea and buns.

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To contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email theleader@rbkc.gov.uk

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LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

schools

Holocaust survivor visits Cardinal Vaughan

THE Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School in Holland Park, which last year celebrated its 100th anniversary with a number of high profile events, welcomed Holocaust survivor Lady Zahava Kohn and

her daughter, Hephzibah Rudofsky, to address pupils.

A spokesperson for the school said: "It was a great privilege to welcome Lady Zahava to the school and our boys were left incredibly moved and inspired by her accounts of Westerbork and Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

Lady Zahava's unique personal testimony had a remarkably positive outcome and offered our pupils a valuable opportunity to learn first-hand about the horrors of the Holocaust."

This is Lady Kohn's touching story:

"I was born in British-controlled Palestine in 1935 and moved to Amsterdam two years later.

We were comfortably off but things were difficult for the Jews. My parents were very worried when my brother was born. They wanted to escape Amsterdam but were afraid the baby would cry. They tried desperately to get us out of the country and eventually got visas for Honduras but the papers arrived too late.

"When they knew we would be deported in 1943, they decided to leave my brother Jehudi, who was 16-months-old, with a lady in the Dutch resistance. She wrote to my parents in Westerbork, using code words to tell them my brother was fine and sent a photograph hidden in a bag of dried beans.

Hysterical

"When they came to take us to Westerbork I had chicken pox and the guards wanted to send me on the train for sick people, separating me from my mother. But I was hysterical and eventually they gave up trying. That probably saved my life and my parents.

"When we left Westerbork, the only reason we did not go straight to

Auschwitz was because I had British protection from being born in Palestine. If we had been separated, they would have been killed. After four months in Westerbork, we were on the platform waiting for the train to Auschwitz and we were called back at the last second and told to stay. We stayed there five more months and then were sent to Bergen-Belsen.

"My grandparents lived in Switzerland and they tried everything to get us out of Bergen-Belsen, but they couldn't.

"My parents were instructed to send postcards to them asking for food parcels. Of course, the parcels never arrived - they were intercepted by the SS. But my grandparents kept the postcards and we found them after my mother's death.

"It was a brutal place, with many beatings. My father had his teeth all knocked out. There were no toilets and I shared a bunk with my mother. She was very ill with typhoid and she had a bucket next to the bed because she couldn't make it outside to

go to the toilet.

"We were liberated in April 1945 and we managed to get to Switzerland to stay with my grandparents. I spent a long time having treatments for my bad health. We were reunited with my brother after the war and he didn't know us. He called my mother 'mummy from Switzerland'."

◆ The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, having been founded in 1914, last year celebrated its 100th anniversary with

a series of high profile events.

These included a CX-entenary Foundation Mass in Westminster Cathedral and a Centenary Celebration at the Royal Albert Hall.

As part of the celebrations sports teacher Chris Bailey ran from Cardinal Vaughan's birthplace in Gloucestershire to his final resting place in Westminster Cathedral, a distance of 193 miles, and raised £3,000 for Aid To The Church In Need and Good Shepherd Project.



■ HOLOCAUST survivor Lady Zahava John and her daughter, Hephzibah Rudofsky, who recently visited Cardinal Vaughan School



■ LEARNING first-hand of the horrors of the Holocaust: Lady Kohn's daughter, Hephzibah Rudofsky, addresses pupils at Cardinal Vaughan School

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ALDRIDGE ACADEMY

THE last day of the autumn term saw Sir Rod and Lady Aldridge attend the rewards assembly during which Principal David Benson praised students on an extremely successful first term at Kensington Aldridge Academy.

Sir Rod and Lady Aldridge presented students with awards for Attendance, Entrepreneurship, Academic Excellence, Academic Resilience, Reader of the Half Term, and Sports Men and Women of the Half Term. House points were awarded for each of these achievements, and added to the points students had been awarded during the Commendation Assembly earlier in the week. The winners of the Boys and Girls Inter-House Football competitions were also congratulated by Sir Rod.

The much anticipated results of the House Competition Charity Week were announced at the close of the assembly- revealing Angelou to have won 2000 House Points by raising an amazing £988.60 for Crisis. Safiyah McGee (7 Jobs) personally raised £535.35 by completing a sponsored six- mile run and was presented with an award for her amazing contribution to Angelou's winning total.

Pankhurst raised £396 for Centrepoin and won 1500 House Points in second place. Franklin students raised £333.96 for Great Ormond Street Hospital and received 1000 House Points in third place. Honeyball collected £244 for The Children's Society and were awarded 500 House Points for their efforts. In total KAA students raised a staggering £1,962.56 for charity during the competition.

"We are extremely grateful to all students, parents and staff for going the extra mile and helping us raise so much money for good causes," said an Academy spokesperson.

The assembly illustrated the amazing achievements students have made in the first three months of the academy's founder year.

ARK PRIMARY

SEVEN pupils from across the Ark network were lucky enough to be part of a professional football match.

Pupils from Ark Atwood Primary Academy, Ark Brunel Primary Academy and Ark Little Ridge Primary Academy were selected to be mascots at the Tottenham Hotspur v Partizan Belgrade match back in November.

The lucky pupils got to wait in the tunnels with the players, before walking out to huge applause and lining up with the players before the match. at White Hart Lane, before a crowd of 36,000.

After their mascot duties the pupils watched the match with their parents, before taking home their new Tottenham Hotspur kits.

All seven pupils were nominated to take part by their teachers for the positive impact they have had at school and on their peers.

"Having the opportunity to be mascots at the Spurs match was a great opportunity for King and Ellie and both wanted to do it again straight away," said Dominic Smith, headteacher at Ark Brunel.

◆ OXFORD and Warwick classes At Ark Brunel visited the Thames Explorer Trust as part of their project on rivers.

The pupils participated in a workshop that taught them all about the River Thames. They learned that the River Thames was the cleanest river in the world in 2010 and that we all drink its water.

The children were also lucky enough to have the opportunity to explore the foreshore.

WHAT HAS BROUGHT YOU TO TEARS?



- **A BREAK UP**
- **THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE**
- **SICKNESS/PAINS**
- **FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES**
- **UNCONTROLLABLE TEENS**
- **ADDICTIONS**
- **LOVE LIFE**
- **DEPRESSION**
- **UNFAITHFULNESS ETC.**



When something terrible happens or you feel that your back is against the wall, the natural reaction is to get emotional. Let's be honest, after the temporary relief, crying doesn't change anything!

But what if you knew how to change your tears of sadness into tears of joy?

This is what we will train you to do at the Exchange your Tears Event.



"My husband's success meant everything to him, much more than I did. I felt used and alone, as if everything he had promised on our wedding day was a lie. But I found the solution at the HelpCentre. Now, I can say that I'm married! Our relationship brings me tears of joy. Four years have passed, but we look as if we just got married today!" - Stephanie Mendes

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Guests from Polish Embassy attend Jozef's 100th birthday celebration

NORTH Kensington resident Jozef Kaleta celebrated his 100th birthday last week.

Mr Kaleta came to Scotland in 1940 with the Polish Army via Romania, Yugoslavia and France. At the end of the war he was decorated by both Polish and British governments. He decided to stay on in Great Britain, living first in Kent and then in London, working successfully in the hotel and catering industry for many years.

Mr Kaleta married his wife Stella 35 years ago and they now live quietly on the Allom and Barlow Estate in North Kensington.

Representatives from the Polish Embassy attended his birthday celebration meal at a restaurant in Hammersmith and the party continued at Mr Kaleta's home, where he and his wife were joined by family from Poland and local friends and neighbours. Mr Kaleta puts his long life down to good genes, his happy marriage, a modest consumption of the best Polish vodka and a brisk walk every day around the estate's communal gardens.



■ CENTENARIAN: Jozef Kaleta and his wife Stella at his 100th birthday party

Letters to the Editor

Who cares for the carers?

SIR - I'm sure your readers were as moved as I was by the recent trials and tribulations of the Trueman family in Eastenders. Even though they are fictitious characters, their situation must be depressingly familiar to a great many people.

Did you know that there are around 6.5 million unpaid carers in the UK just like Eastenders' Denise, who are struggling every day to cope with the needs of an older or disabled loved one?

One of our own studies found that six out of 10 carers had experienced feelings of anger towards the loved on they care for, due to the relentless pressure of their caring role. Just as for the Trueman

family, the consequences of this can be terrible for carer and cared for alike.

I work for a charity called Revitalise, which provides much-needed breaks for disabled people and crucial respite for their carers. The breaks we provide at our accessible centres around the UK are an absolute lifeline, enabling disabled people to regain their strength and carers to take valuable time off and restore their ability to cope.

January is a time for New Year's resolutions, so I'd like to ask your readers to resolve to support Revitalise's vital work in 2015. In doing so you'll be making a real difference to the lives of countless

disabled people and their carers each year.

We couldn't do what we do without your generous support, so please help us. There are so many ways you can support Revitalise, from donating money to volunteering, but whichever you choose, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that every minute of your time, every ounce of your energy and every penny you donate will make a difference.

So go on, resolve to support Revitalise in 2015! Find out how at www.revitalise.org.uk or call 0303 303 0147.

Colin Brook, Revitalise
www.revitalise.org.uk

Boys' Brigade still relevant for all young people

SIR - As we start a new year, it offers a timely opportunity to reflect on the past 12 months, whilst looking ahead to what is shaping up to be a positive year for The Boys' Brigade in England.

In 2014, we started 35 new companies, creating 1,000 places for young people in England, taking our UK membership to over 65,000, which is great news for the lives of young people – boys and girls – in supporting the development of key life skills.

Much of this work was achieved as a result of funding from the Government's Social Inclusion Programme administered by the Youth United Foundation. Going forward, new funding has been secured from revenue streams including the Government's Uniformed Social Action Fund, which will enable us to grow the organisation across the country, and in particular in those communities where there's a need to invest in the lives of young people and children.

We're also proud of the achievements of our members. In 2014, 120 young people achieved their Queen's Badge, which is the highest recognition in the organisation and 333 members gained the organisation's President's Badge.

Collectively, this highlights the continued relevance of The Boys' Brigade to today's young people. However, we couldn't have achieved such impressive outcomes without the help of thousands of volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes, and to whom we are extremely grateful.

Looking ahead, 2015 offers a number of exciting opportunities. We're working with the Government-led National Citizen Service to deliver additional training for the initiative, which aims to put young people at the heart of the local community.

We also hope to welcome more young people into the organisation with the creation of new groups, with a focus on after-school provision in rural areas.

Eric Hudson
Director for England

Please listen to the views of playworkers

SIR - As a playworker of seven years experience I believe Cllr Dent Coad in her letter of January 8th has missed the point.

Rather than try to score cheap political points in your paper she should be listening to the views of playworkers.

When I emailed her explaining why the specialist skills that trained playworkers have are best used in the interests of children as a separate entity she did not even acknowledge my letter. Councillor Campbell on the other hand addressed my concerns in a letter to me within 24 hours.

Keith Nickol
by email

Writing for the London Weekly News every week, London's favourite entrepreneur

Charlie Pipes Up!



Companies must pay a fair wage for a day's work

I SEE that the next series of Benefits Street is going to be back on our screens soon and it got my blood boiling.

We have to stop celebrating the culture of state-funded worklessness, if we're ever going to break the cycle that sees people leave school and never get close to employment.

The problem is, for all the efforts being made by Government, charities and businesses, there are still a few firms out there exploiting people and making claiming benefits more attractive, and financially rewarding, than working.

I was staggered to discover there are still firms out there, including some well-known names, which are failing to pay the National Minimum Wage.

Most recently, 37 were named and shamed, which is a good thing, because any business who pays their people less than the minimum deserves to be put in the stocks and have their bad practices exposed.

And does anyone really believe major firms like retailer H&M and Welcome Break, the service station operator, when they say that staff were paid below the minimum wage as a result of H&M's 'time logging errors' and Welcome Break's IT problems?

Seriously, if these company bosses are struggling to work out an hourly rate on a calculator, you have to wonder how they manage to guide these multi-million pound operations to ring up such large profits.

I'm sure they'd pay much more attention if, instead of the paltry £51,000 fine these 37 firms

received, their CEOs got a 12-month stretch at Her Majesty's Pleasure.

I do think it's great that the Government is attempting to crack down on businesses who fail to pay a minimum of £6.50 an hour to any staff aged over 21. But the fines of just £1,400 for each of the businesses in question are pathetic, especially when H&M racks up more than £600 million in profit in three months alone.

The fact that these businesses have been named and shamed and their reputations mud-died probably does them more damage than any financial penalty.

However I'm eagerly awaiting the Government's proposed Small Business Bill, which will increase the level of fines to up to £20,000 and will be based on the number of employees underpaid. It's vital these rogue employers are held to account.

As a patron for The Prince's Trust and a responsible employer, I have made it my mission over the last few years to get people off benefits and back into the work place.

The Government have put a huge amount of resource into this. Businesses that avoid paying the minimum wage are undoing all that hard work, because what incentive do our young people have to go out and get a job when their employers rip them off and they are underpaid?

In our country there are millions who are officially in poverty, and what's making it even more shocking is that more than half of those people are in work.

For me, if you go to work every day you deserve a decent reward, no exceptions!



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COMING SOON!

The London Weekly News website is currently under construction. In the meantime, if you would like to view the LWN pages digitally, you can access them by clicking onto <http://bit.ly/1vS5sl8>

FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

London



WEEKLY News

ISSUE 7

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Thursday, January 22nd 2015

Marking 50 years since the death of one of the UK's greatest statesmen

When the Queen offered Churchill a dukedom

LWN

ROYAL SPECIAL

MOVIEMAKERS are missing a trick. Of all of the films made about the Royal Family, a key one remains untold – of the admiration of Winston Churchill for The Queen.

Oscars and BAFTAs have been heaped upon the Helen Mirren triumph 'The Queen' and 'The King's Speech' starring Colin Firth, but only the future knows what awards would be won by an undoubtedly-popular dramatisation of the fondness shared by the two lead figures of the nation's past 100 years.

As many exhibitions open to mark the 50th anniversary this week of the January 24th death of the greatest-ever Englishman, the story of Churchill's affection for The Queen is just begging to be made a movie.

It is one of the inspirational stories of our time, the maverick and the monarch; an entirely

By Geoff Baker

platonic relationship, of course, but deep and deeply moving.

It is unknown to many that so high was Her Majesty's regard for Churchill that when a stroke forced him to step down as Prime Minister, at his last official audience The Queen was prepared to break with all tradi-

Do you know, the most remarkable thing – she offered me a duke!

tion and protocol and appoint him Duke of London.

"He returned from the Palace with tears in his eyes," his private secretary Jock Colville recalled.

"He said, 'Do you know, the most remarkable thing – she offered me a duke! Well you know, I very nearly accepted. I

was so moved by her beauty and her charm and the kindness with which she made this offer, that for a moment I thought of accepting.

"But finally I remembered that I must die as I have always been, Winston Churchill, so I asked her to forgive my not accepting."

The Queen referred to the occasion when she later unveiled the statue of Churchill in Parliament Square. She said: "I thought that when he resigned as Prime Minister and would no longer play an active part in party politics, I might honour his wholly exceptional achievements by offering him a dukedom. No such distinction had been proposed for nearly a century.

"But he wanted to spend his last years where he had passed almost all of his adult life, in the House of Commons, and indeed

■ TURN TO PAGE 3



PRIME Minister Winston Churchill wearing his regalia of The Order Of The Garter holds the car door open for Her Majesty The Queen after she had dined at 10 Downing Street

Photo: REX

Inside London's new weekly

Where to see a royal - page 2



Dresden Prize for the Duke of Kent

page 15



Carole King's beautiful musical

page 16

Westminster & Pimlico News (established 1857) ♦ Chelsea News (established 1869)
♦ Kensington News (established 1869)

THE paper serving ROYAL London

ROYAL LONDON

Queen's tribute to her first Prime Minister

'The whole world is poorer by the loss of his many-sided genius'

FROM page 1

he had no need for distinction greater than the name Winston Churchill."

As Lord Salisbury recounted, Churchill had no desire to sit in the Upper House because 'he regards us in the Lords as a rather disreputable collection of old gentlemen'. But his affection for The Queen, whom he had known since he first met her at Balmoral when she was two-years-old, almost tipped his pride in being a commoner.

"He was madly in love with The Queen," recalled

Colville. "His audiences (as Prime Minister) had been dragged out longer and longer and very often took an hour and a half (as opposed to the accepted 30 minutes).

"I asked him, 'What do you talk about?' 'Oh," he said, 'mainly racing'.

"I think that my grandfather was platonically in love with her, as a beautiful young woman she embodied all of his romantic ideas of monarchy," said the MP Nicholas Soames.

"When he resigned in 1955 after his stroke, she

was the first person whom he told."

Of course it was not 'mainly racing' that they discussed. With a wealth of experience, unquestioning loyalty and an almost-psychic perception for the feelings of his countrymen, Churchill was the perfect adviser to the Palace and The Queen's greatest ally, a point that she touched on in a lengthy, hard-written private note from Windsor Castle after his resignation.

"I need not tell you how severely I shall continue to miss your advice and encouragement. It would be useless to pretend that any successors will ever be able to hold the place of my first Prime Minister," wrote The Queen.

"I had a lovely letter from her, eight pages and in her own writing," Churchill told Colville, "it took me a whole morning to reply."

Although Churchill refused the honour of Knight Companion of the Order of The Garter from King George VI after losing the first post-war election – "I could hardly accept the Order of the Garter when the people have given me the order of the boot" – when The Queen repeated the offer of the nation's highest honour of chivalry that is only the monarch's right to give, he accepted.

And when Churchill died at the age of 90, on January 24th, 1965, Her Majesty went further in marking her personal appreciation for the man who saved the free world in WW2. By her decree, his body lay in state in Westminster Hall for three days and on her instruction, Churchill was given a state funeral, the first commoner to be so honoured since Gladstone in 1898.

Churchill's funeral was attended by heads of state from 112 countries and watched live on television through Europe by 350 million people. Most unusually, The Queen attended.

As his lead-lined coffin was sailed up the Thames on a ceremonial launch, dockers lowered their crane jibs in salute. The Royal Artillery fired a 19-gun

salute and the RAF paid tribute with six aircraft fly-by. When the coffin was taken from Waterloo Station to Hanborough, near Oxford, by the steam locomotive No 34051 'Winston Churchill', thousands stood in silence in the fields and streets as it passed, paying their respects to the man whom The New York Times called 'the great figure who embodied man's will to resist tyranny.'

The Queen wrote to Lady Churchill: "The whole world is poorer by the loss of his many-sided genius, while the survival of this country and the sister nations of the Commonwealth, in the face of the greatest danger which has ever threatened them, will be a perpetual memorial to his leadership, his vision, and his indomitable courage."

Exhibitions marking the work and legacy of the man who once noted, 'kites rise highest against the wind, not with it', are being held at The Houses of Parliament, The Imperial War Museum, The Science Museum, The National Railway Museum, Blenheim Palace, Knebworth House and at The Churchill War Rooms.



■ WINSTON Churchill was invited to join King George VI, Queen Elizabeth, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret on the balcony at Buckingham Palace during the VE Day Celebrations in London on May 8th 1945

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■ THE Queen is greeted by Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Lady Churchill as she arrives at his retirement dinner in 1955
Photo courtesy Everett Collection/REX

WHERE TO SEE YOUR FAVOURITE ROYAL

FULL details of future and recent events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of The Royal Family are available from the official website www.royal.gov.uk but here's the London schedule for the week ahead for Where To See A Royal.

Tuesday, January 20th

● The Earl of Wessex and the Countess of Wessex, as patrons will visit the Tomorrow's People Flower Stall at St Anselm's Church, Kennington SE11.

● The Earl and Countess of Wessex will visit the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine at Keppel Street WC1.

● The Princess Royal, as President, will attend a Victim Sup-

port dinner at St James's Palace.

● The Princess Royal, as President of the British Olympic Association, will attend a National Olympic Committee meeting at Charlotte Street W1.

● The Princess Royal will attend a Swinfen Charitable Trust reception at St James's Place.

Wednesday, January 21st

● The Countess of Wessex, as chairman of the Women's Network Forum for promoting The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will hold a meeting at Buckingham Palace.

● The Princess Royal, as President of Save The Children UK, will attend the International Financing Review Awards dinner

at the Grosvenor House Hotel W1.

● The Duke of Gloucester, as patron, will attend a reception for the London Playing Fields Foundation at City Hall SE1.

Thursday, January 22nd

● The Countess of Wessex will chair as Charities Forum at Buckingham Palace.

● The Countess of Wessex, as chairman of Women In Business for supporting The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will chair a meeting at Belgrave Road SW1.

● The Duchess of Gloucester, as patron of the Royal London Society for the Blind, will attend a meeting at the Victoria Charity Centre, Belgrave Road SW1.

ROYAL LONDON*'A tribute to those associated with The Dresden Trust'*

Peace prize for the Duke of Kent



■ **HONOURED WITH
THE DRESDEN PRIZE:**
HRH The Duke of Kent

IN 1945, RAF and USAF heavy bombers launched a Valentine's Day surprise on the city of Dresden with 1,250 airplanes dropping 39,000 tonnes of bombs, including 200,000 incendiaries in the first wave, which created a firestorm that destroyed 1,600 acres of the city centre over three days and killed 25,000 people, many of them burnt to death.

By the time that the second wave of bombers approached, the flames of Dresden could be seen in the air from 500 miles away as the terror bombing designed to crush German morale towards the end of the war did precisely that.

The controversy over the morality of this act of total war has raged for decades, with outrage in Germany and much unease in Britain. Although much re-building of the landmarks, businesses and homes of the flattened city was done after the war, clearly re-building relations was always going to be a major task.

For his great contribution to this reconciliation of Britain and Germany, 70 years after the firestorm the Duke of Kent will be honoured with the Dresden Prize, an international peace prize, on February 14th.

The Duke of Kent has for decades been active in fostering British-German reconciliation and since 1994 has been Patron of the British Dresden Trust.

In 2004 the Dresden Trust presented the gold cross steeple which sits on top of the Frauenkirche cathedral, as a gift from the British people to Dresden. The cathedral was severely damaged by the RAF bombing raids and its reconstruction, and the installation of the cross and orb steeple, was a significant moment in the reconciliation process.

In response to the invitation to receive the prize, The Duke of Kent said: "This award is really a tribute to all those associated with the Friends of Dresden Trust, of which I have been privileged to be the Patron for the past 20 years. It recognises their achievements and indeed the achievements of all people of good will in the United Kingdom and Germany, who have worked to bring reconciliation between our two countries. Their success is an example to the rest of the world of what can be achieved through building trust and friendship."

Friends of Dresden Deutschland and the British Embassy in Berlin announced the award, which His Royal Highness will receive in Dresden's Semper Opera.

As part of his visit to Dresden, The Duke of Kent will also join the President of Germany, Joachim Gauck, at a service in the Frauenkirche on February 13th to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Dresden.



The gold cross on the Frauenkirche in Dresden

Duchess puts the spotlight on fostering

THE Duchess of Cambridge attended an event this week to celebrate the work of foster carers from across the UK in providing support to vulnerable young people.

The Fostering Network welcomed The Duchess to Islington Council where she met foster carers, social workers, and care leavers to discuss the role of fostering and the need for more foster carers, and to hear the stories of those who have experienced fostering first hand.

Every day more than 63,000 children live with over 52,500 foster families across the UK, while they are unable to live at home. These children have often experienced neglect and abuse, or have witnessed domestic violence or substance misuse. Whatever their experiences, all of them will be suffering the trauma of being separated from their own families, and need love, support and stability. Foster carers can provide these children with what they need, and often give them their first positive experience of family life.

Right now there's a need for at least 8,600 new foster families across the UK, particularly to offer homes to teenagers, disabled children and groups of brothers and sisters.

Lucy Peake, director of development at The Fostering Network, said: "The Fostering Network has, for 40 years, been at the forefront of the development and growth of foster care right across the UK. We are proud to celebrate fostering and the amazing role that foster carers play in helping to transform children's lives."

"A visit from The Duchess helps to shine a spotlight on fostering and the need for more foster carers, particularly to look after teenagers, disabled children and groups of brothers and sisters. We are very grateful to her for her interest, and know that the foster carers and care leavers attending our event were excited to be sharing their experiences and stories with her."

If you believe that you have the skills to foster, and the room in your home, visit couldyoufoster.org.uk to find out more and to contact your local fostering services.



■ **CATHERINE Duchess of Cambridge accepts flowers at the fostering event.**
Photo Nils Jorgensen/REX

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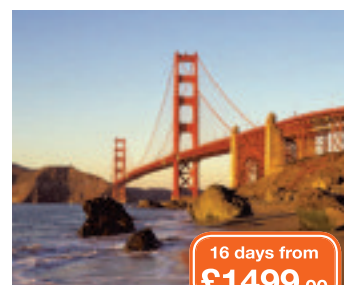
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SHOWBIZ SPECIAL

The girl who made the world take her seriously

A 'Beautiful' new musical

by Geoff Baker

KATIE Brayben. Remember the name for although largely unknown now she is going to be the next toast of the West End, a big star born from a story that is so Hollywood that even Hollywood couldn't make it up.

Not so long ago she was just another hopeful singer-songwriter, a girl from Hitchin playing small gigs, living on dreams of maybe, just maybe, making it. She had talent and the word was going around about her; Jools Holland had turned up to watch her first performance and so had a scout from EMI. The record label made an approach but as Katie had only written a few of her own songs by then, she didn't feel ready for a record deal.

"Although my ultimate ambition is to have a record deal and go on a world tour, my worst fear now is that I'll never have that opportunity," she told BBC Radio Hertfordshire later.

So she moved into London and became a Speech Geek, "teaching communication through theatre thinking" with other enterprising actors trying to make a living by offering the unusual service to those wanting to improve their communication skills.

She ploughed on, doing theatre workshops, even learning the trapeze as one role required it, there were some short films which won awards and prizes but it was nothing to write the front page about.

But then the proof of the try and try again factor happened and Katie won the key part of Sophie, the daughter in Mamma Mia! The production toured internationally and ended up in the West End, where one theatre led to another and eventually to the acclaimed 'American Psycho', in which she played Courtney Lawrence at the Almeida Theatre.

And that led to Katie landing the role of Princess Diana in 'King Charles III', currently the critics' fave rave of the West End.

But it's not 'Charles III' that is going to make her a massive star, it's what Katie does next.

For on February 10th she opens in the new musical which is widely-tipped to take over from 'Mamma Mia', 'Billy Elliot', 'Cats', 'Made In Dagenham' and indeed everything as the smash hit of 2015 – 'Beautiful: The Carole King Story'.

The London production comes in the wake of the show's massive success on Broadway, where it has taken more than £15 million after starting out in San Francisco in 2013. The critics weren't too sure

about it and their early reviews were mixed, but the public spotted a winner and every single performance sold out.

It is easy to see why. For like 'Mamma Mia!', 'Beautiful' is most essentially a women's feelgood show because of the songs that girls of all ages adore, because the songs are the sounds of what you're feeling when you're a teenage girl.

Until the girls of Abba came along, there was no bigger female name in the pop firmament than Carole King. As a woman songwriter, there is probably no bigger name still. Yes, we have Madonna and Lady Gaga and Adele et al, but Carole King wrote her first US No 1 when she was only 17, topping Billboard, the biggest pop chart on the planet.

Just like Katie Brayben, Carole King started playing the piano at the age of four. But unlike Katie, the young Carole wasn't dreaming of a world tour, she just wanted to be liked.

"When I got to high school I wanted to be popular, like any girl does, and writing songs was my vehicle for that," said the woman who has written 400 songs recorded by more than 1,000 artists, whose album 'Tapestry' spent 15 weeks at No 1 in the USA and six years on the Billboard chart and in the Seventies was owned by every girl who had a record player.

"Nobody took me seriously at high school. People would say 'oh she's so cute', not in the sense that they mean it today – she's hot or she's attractive – but sort of dismissive. I didn't want to be cute, I wanted to be beautiful and smart. But that wasn't happening and so I turned to music, it was my way of identifying myself."



■ **CAROLE KING:** Joined the cast on stage at a Broadway performance of *Beautiful* - the story of her early years as a singer songwriter



Living in Brooklyn, the daughter of a firefighter, she was feisty and somehow persuaded her way to meet the great Alan Freed, the DJ and 'father of rock and roll'.

"I was fearless at that age," said Carole, "Because I was young I was naïve and thinking 'well, why can't I do this?'"

Freed advised the confident kid to look for a record company to get a songwriting deal. At the age of 16, she got a contract.

Her boyfriend, one Gerry Goffin, became her songwriting partner, Carole creating the melodies and Gerry doing the lyrics.

"He was outstanding," said Carole. "He had an ability to say really big ideas in really simple words, he could get inside a woman's head and say the things that a teenage girl was thinking."

And one universal that teenage girls were thinking then, as they do now, was the thought 'Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?'

Punched-up by Carole King's catchy melody and in the voices of The Shirelles, the song went to No 1.

It was the first time that any all-girl group had ever topped the charts and it remains a classic to this day.

It's the Goffin & King songs like that will make 'Beautiful' an enormous West End hit, everybody knows these hits that include: 'It Might As Well Rain Until September', 'Take Good Care Of My Baby', 'Up On The Roof', 'Pleasant Valley Sunday', 'The Loco-Motion' (written by Goffin and King for their babysitter, Little Eva) and 'You Make Me Feel Like A Natural Woman'.

And it is the heart-rending storyline behind those songs, Goffin and King's very young and early marriage – which soon broke up – which will add further appeal to the must-see status that 'Beautiful' is sure to quickly win.

"We wrote Natural Woman but I was barely a woman," King recalled. "I was 16 when I met Gerry, 17 when we married and by the time I was 20 we already had two children. I was young and

didn't have the ability to identify my feelings, I didn't know enough to communicate what I was thinking."

But greater success was to come for Carole King after she and Goffin split up and she moved to California to make her own album, singing her own songs, for 'Tapestry'.

Tracks on the album – including 'It's Too Late', 'I Feel The Earth Move', 'Beautiful' and her own re-workings of 'Natural Woman' and 'Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow' – became the soundtrack of the time that millions of girls spent alone in their bedrooms in the Seventies, especially because of the one which became a massive hit for her friend James Taylor, the No 1 pin-up of the decade, 'You've Got A Friend'.

"That song was as close to pure inspiration as I've ever experienced; the song wrote itself, it was written by something outside of me," said Carole, who won four Grammy awards including Album Of The Year for 'Tapestry', now ranked No 36 on Rolling Stone magazine's 500 Greatest Albums Of All Time.

'Tapestry' made Carole King a legend and made her a superstar performer in her own right, as President Obama noted when her presented her with the prestigious Gershwin Prize for song-writing.

"Her album Tapestry brought her a whole new set of fans – including me," said the President at the White house ceremony.

Now, through the acclaimed mezzo soprano of Katie Brayben, Carole King is set to win another new set of fans all over again when 'Beautiful' opens in the West End next month.

For Katie the woman singer-songwriter to be playing the greatest woman singer-songwriter of all time must surely be a dream come true. Although there may be one scene to the dream yet to unfold – if Carole herself joins the show, as she did to the cast's complete surprise on Broadway.

Before 'Beautiful' opened in the US, Carole said that she would not go to see the show because the prospect of reliving her early years and her turbulent marriage would be too painful. But last year, unannounced, she turned up in the audience.

At the end of the performance, to the delighted shock of the cast, she was encouraged to join them on stage after the curtain call.

"I was thrilled, it was so joyous to see, I couldn't be more proud," she said before in an impromptu auction among the audience for her to sing, she broke into 'You've Got A Friend' with the cast and raised \$30,000 right there for charity.

Who knows if the magic moment will be repeated again after 'Beautiful, The Carole King Musical' opens for previews at The Aldwych Theatre from February 10th?

Beautiful

The Carole King Musical

THE STORY THAT INSPIRED THE SOUNDTRACK OF A GENERATION



■ **KATIE Brayben** opens as Carole King in *Beautiful* at the Aldwych Theatre on February 10th



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WINE & DINE

The food and
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Boil up a jar of the orange stuff

THE release of the movie Paddington, about the lovable bear who was found on the Westminster station, has apparently boosted sales of marmalade in Waitrose by 88 per cent because of his love of sandwiches made of the stuff.

January is marmalade month - it's the only time of year when bitter Seville oranges are available.

If you fancy a go a making your own help is at hand in the form of Marmalade: A Bittersweet Cookbook by Sarah Randell, food director of Sainsbury's Magazine, who's written some lip-smacking recipes for marmalade and what you can do with it - marmalade-glazed bacon sandwiches anyone?

"Marmalade is part of our British culinary psyche, it represents us on breakfast tables all over the world and is something we are, justifiably, very proud of," she says.

And according to Randell, our love of marmalade dates back to the 18th century, when it was first made commercially by the Keiller family in Scotland.

"Mrs Keiller and her husband, who was a grocer, took stock of a batch of Seville oranges from a Spanish ship that had to dock unexpectedly on the coast of Dundee. Mrs Keiller set about making them into marmalade and Mr Keiller sold it. Around the same time, home cooks were beginning to experiment with recipes for marmalade-type preserves. The name marmalade stems from the Portuguese word 'marmelada', which refers to quince paste.

"We always had marmalade on the breakfast table at home. We were more of a toast and marmalade family than bacon and eggs, so it has always been part of my life," says Randell.

"A few years ago, I was asked to join the judges for The World's Original Marmalade Awards. I was fascinated by the range and variety sent in from around the world, hundreds and hundreds of jars and every one was different. I was hooked."

Randall's idea of a perfect marmalade is "a bright clear jelly with tender peel suspended evenly in it - the peel should be tender but still have a slight bite".

Her recipe for Classic Seville Orange Marmalade begins with the words, "Put the radio on". It sounds relaxing so, while those bitter fruits are in the shops why not give it a go...

*(Makes about 7 x 340g jars)
1kg bitter Seville oranges
Juice of 1 fat lemon
2kg granulated sugar*

DAY ONE

Put the radio on. Halve the oranges and, using the tip of a knife, flick out any obvious pips on to a double-layered square of gauze (or muslin), about 30 x 30cm. Squeeze the juice from the oranges into a very large bowl (or a large lidded plastic box), add any extra pips from the squeezer to the gauze and add any fleshy bits of orange to the bowl.

Now, cut each orange half into quarters and, using a knife, scrape out the membranes inside - put these and any more pips you find on to the gauze square. The next job is to shred the pithy peel as uniformly as possible into thin, medium or chunky shreds, as you wish; discard the buttons from the ends of the fruit as you go. Transfer the shredded peel to the bowl too.

Gather the gauze square together to form



PADDINGTON'S love of marmalade sandwiches has been credited for a rise in sales at Waitrose

a money-bag shape, twist the top and tie it with string - an extra pair of hands comes in useful here. When you tie the string, leave one long end - you can use this to tie the gauze pouch onto the pan handle and immerse it in the liquid when you cook the peel.

Put the pouch into the bowl to join the peel and juice. Add 2.25 litres of cold water, making sure everything is as immersed in the water as it can be, then cover with cling film (or a lid) and leave it overnight. I usually put the bowl in the cellar or garage.

DAY TWO

The next day, tip everything from the bowl into a preserving pan and tie the gauze pouch to the pan handle so it sits on the base of the pan. Bring the whole lot to simmering point over a low-medium heat and simmer the peel until it is really soft - you should be able to squish it easily in your fingers; this will take about one-and-a-half hours. The liquid will reduce as the peel simmers, and you will see a tidemark around the inside of the pan.

Once the peel is soft enough, remove the gauze pouch from the pan, pressing it

against the side with the back of a wooden spoon as you do so, to extract as much pectin as possible from the pith and pips - put the pouch into a bowl and leave it for 10 minutes to cool slightly.

Meanwhile, halve and squeeze the lemon and tip the lemon juice into the pan with the sugar; stir over a low heat. Give the gauze pouch a final squeeze to extract the last of the pectin into the marmalade; wearing clean washing-up gloves makes this easier. You can now discard the pouch, as its work is done.

Preheat the oven to 140C/fan 120C/gas 1. Keep stirring the marmalade from time to time to help dissolve the sugar. This is an important stage, so make sure all the sugar has dissolved before you move on to the next; it can take 15 minutes or so. I find that any pips I have missed usually pop to the surface at this point; scoop them out with a teaspoon. Put a few saucers in the freezer for the wrinkle test (see below) and put your jars and lids in the oven for 15-20 minutes to sterilise.

Now, bring the marmalade up to a rolling boil and boil it for 20-25 minutes or until it has reached setting point (use the wrinkle test). When the marmalade is ready, take the pan off the heat. Leave to settle for 15 minutes; this will help to distribute the peel evenly and make it less hazardous to pot. Give it a gentle stir in one direction to disperse any air bubbles.

Using a measuring jug and a funnel, transfer your marmalade into hot sterilised jars. Seal and leave the marmalade to cool completely. Give the jars a second wipe over with a hot cloth and dry them before labelling. Store the jars of golden marmalade in a dry, cool place, where it will keep for at least a year.

● **Wrinkle Test** - For anyone who doesn't know what a 'wrinkle test' is, after your saucer's been in the freezer for about 15 minutes, place a spoonful of marmalade on it. Push your finger through the marmalade on the plate - you're looking for it to wrinkle and not flood back in to fill the gap. If it's not ready, turn the pan back on, simmer for five minutes and test again.



MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

PHEASANT AND SQUASH CURRY

AT this time of year, some lucky people may have an excess of pheasants in their freezer. If not, though, you'll likely get them from the shops or your butcher. The thighs are perfect for a curry and the breasts I quite like bashing out into an escalope and coating in crumbs and serving with a fried egg on top.

Serves 4

20 or so pheasant thighs
1 x 600-800g squash, peeled, seeded and cut into rough 2cm chunks
4 onions, peeled and sliced
2 medium green chillies, deseeded and sliced
1tbsp ghee
1tbsp tomato purée
1 litre chicken stock; a good cube will do
1tbsp chopped coriander leaves
For the marinade
6 cloves of garlic, peeled and crushed
50g root ginger, scraped and finely grated
A good pinch of saffron
200g thick yogurt
4 cloves
For the spice mix
1tsp black peppercorns
The seeds from 12 cardamom pods
A small piece of cinnamon or cassia stick
1tsp cumin seeds
1tsp fennel seeds
1tsp ground turmeric
1 small butternut squash, peeled, seeded and cut into chunks
To garnish
2tsp pumpkin seeds
A handful of coriander leaves, washed

MIX all of the ingredients together for the marinade then mix with the pheasant thighs, cover and marinate for at least an hour.

Meanwhile, put all of the ingredients for the spice mix in a cast-iron frying pan and heat them over a medium heat for about 3-4 minutes, turning them regularly with a spoon until they are lightly browned.

Transfer to a mortar and pestle and coarsely grind the spices.

Melt the ghee in a thick-bottomed pan and gently cook the onions and chillies on a low heat with a lid on for 5-6 minutes, stirring every so often until soft.

Add the spices, tomato purée and chicken stock, bring to the boil and simmer for 10 minutes.

Add the pheasant and the marinade, cover and simmer gently for about 20 minutes, topping up with a little water if necessary. Take a ladle of the sauce and blend in a liquidiser until smooth and return to the pan.

Add the squash and continue simmering for another 15-20 minutes or until the squash is cooked. The pheasant should be tender now and the sauce quite thick; if not, continue simmering.

Stir in the coriander and transfer to a serving dish. To serve, scatter the pumpkin seeds on top and accompany with basmati rice.



Elderly lose out in post office closure

CUSTOMERS of the Kings Walk Post Office, in Chelsea, have written to senior managers with a string of concerns about their ability to access important services when their local branch closes next month.

Post Office bosses have now confirmed that the branch will close permanently in February, having failed to find alternative premises from which to operate.

But feedback on the plans submitted by customers reveals major concerns that elderly people in particular will be disadvantaged.

The Post Office received around 50 responses to its announcement, with many customers concerned they will potentially have to travel more than a mile to reach alternative branches.

Public transport concerns and a lack of car parking space have also angered customers, whose nearest Crown branches are now located at Worlds End, Eccleston Street and South Kensington Station.

The Post Office's lease on the Kings Walk building is due to expire in March, and bosses have been seeking new premises to try and maintain a local service.

But in a letter to Chelsea residents last

by Jack Dixon

week, Roger Gale, general manager for the Crown network, said it had not been possible to find a viable alternative.

"We searched for alternative premises locally and engaged with local retail partners, but unfortunately this has not identified any viable options that would allow us to relocate the branch nearby."

Mr Gale said he had given careful consideration to the longer journey times but that keeping the branch in its current location was "not an option".

He added: "We are satisfied the surrounding branches have the capacity to provide a service to customers who currently use Kings Walk Post Office. Many of these, including Worlds End, Eccleston Street, South Kensington Station and Knightsbridge have been modernised in the last year.

"I am confident that the surrounding branches will continue to meet customer needs, ensuring users have continued access to Post Office services while delivering a good standard of service."

Pedestrians will face a walk of between 0.4 and 1.2 miles to the alternative branches, though there are direct buses to the Worlds End, Eccleston Street and South Kensington Station

branches with alighting points around 200 metres away.

The Post Office is recommending that elderly or disabled customers make use of the London Councils' Freedom Pass and Taxicard schemes to help them access services in the future.

Bosses also say they will be making improvements to the surrounding branches to ensure customers are not left waiting.

An extra self-service kiosk will be installed at the Eccleston Street branch, with additional counter positions at Worlds End and South Kensington Station also created.

Mr Gale has also confirmed that the Post Office would not be laying off any staff as a result of the closure.

He added: "We have a strong track record of supporting our people through change and I can confirm that there will be no compulsory redundancies made as a result of the closure.

"Our staff have several options available to them and we will do all that we can to find a solution that works for each individual, including transferring staff to other nearby branches."

The Kings Walk branch will cease trading at close of business on Saturday, February 7th.



■ CHARLES Sincock, who will be competing in the Dakar Rally to raise money for the Royal Hospital with a group of Chelsea Pensioners

Taking on the Dakar in aid of the Royal Hospital

A TEAM of daredevil fundraisers are taking on the Dakar, the world's toughest car rally, in aid of the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Led by former soldier Charles Sincock, the team are covering the incredibly challenging 9,000 kilometre off-road route through Argentina, Bolivia and Chile.

The Dakar, both a race and an orienteering challenge, pits long-distance rally drivers against amateur competitors in extreme environments. Teams need to cross rock fields, desert dunes and muddy terrain, as well as navigate up high altitudes and then tackle steep descents.

Mr Sincock, who was a Captain in the Irish Guards, has previously completed the rally and was eager to take up the challenge again, but this time in support of the Chelsea Pensioners. He said: "I have known of

the Royal Hospital Chelsea for years through a friend and wanted to take on a challenge to raise money for this fantastic cause. Taking part in the physically and mentally tough Dakar Rally seemed a fitting way to raise money for the brave men and women of the Royal Hospital Chelsea."

This year Mr Sincock has joined Rally Raid International, a British team who participate in the Dakar every year as well as in other rally events. The team are self-funded with the help of corporate sponsors.

They are aiming to raise funds for the Royal Hospital Chelsea through holding collections with the rally vehicles in central London on their return. To make a donation to the Royal Hospital and sponsor the team online click here, or text DAKA75 to 70070 to donate £5.

Football scheme continues to turn young people away from crime

A GANG-busting scheme run with Chelsea FC and other football clubs is steering teenagers away from crime and has helped to provide jobs and further education for almost 850 young people.

Now the pilot Premier League Kicks scheme is to keep going for two more years and get an extra £1 million funding to encourage more teenagers to turn away from gang life.

The scheme is run by top clubs including Chelsea, Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur in association with the Premier League, the Met and the Mayor of London.

Gang members and young people at risk of joining gangs are coached away from a future of crime and probable custody by teaming up with clubs like Chelsea FC to have football lessons and learn life skills.

New figures show 131 young Londoners have found employment and 712 have been signposted into further education or training as a result of a football-based youth mentoring programme funded by the Mayor of London and the Premier League.

The London Premier League Kicks scheme, which has been running across 20 London boroughs, has worked with over 1,300 12 to 18-year-old Londoners who are either in a gang or deemed at risk of becoming involved in crime.

A spokesman for Mayor Boris Johnson said: "In line with the Mayor's ambitions for young Londoners and his efforts to tackle youth crime, Kicks offers people the opportunity to turn away from gang life and instead take part in football lessons and life skills workshops led by Premier League clubs including Chelsea.

"The year-long pilot programme has exceeded its targets, working with nearly 500 more young Londoners than expected, and providing over 30,000 hours of activity across the capital.

"The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, MOPAC, has committed £200,000 funding over the next two years to continue the programme beyond its pilot phase, with the Premier League providing

By Geoff Baker

£800,000. This will extend the positive work of Kicks until 2016, giving hundreds more young Londoners the chance to join the programme.

"The Kicks training sessions take place in priority areas linked to gang activity at key times and days of the week including Friday and Saturday evenings, to help keep young people off the streets and away from harmful influences. Those on the programme are referred via the Trident Gang Command, the Met, probation service, local authority, school and other partner agencies; demonstrating the MOPAC's ambition to get public services working more closely together."

Through MOPAC the Mayor has set specific crime and policing targets for London including reducing crime by 20 per cent and increasing confidence in police by 20 per cent.

Positive attitude

"Kicks breaks down barriers between police and young people, with plain clothed Met officers regularly attending sessions," said the spokesman.

"Four in ten of those involved say that since joining Kicks, they have a more positive attitude towards the police and almost half have an increased awareness of crime's consequences.

Boris Johnson has hailed the Kicks scheme as 'a phenomenal success'.

He said: "London Premier League Kicks has proved to be a huge success by preventing hundreds of young Londoners from drifting into crime and showing them the wealth of positive opportunities that can await them in this great city.

"Using the positive influence of football, this pilot has proved a phenomenal success in turning around the lives of over 800 vulnerable individuals. I am pleased to confirm funding to see an expansion to the programme ensuring even more young people have the chance to pour their energy and ambitions into a brighter future."

The Deputy Mayor for Policing And Crime,



RICHARD SCUDAMORE: Programme 'has exceeded all expectations

"By working closely with the Met and the Premier League, those involved have been able to develop better relationships with the police, while officers have gained an invaluable insight into the attitudes and aspirations of our young people."

The Chief Executive of the Premier League, Richard Scudamore, said: "Premier League Kicks delivers diversionary activity for young people in the most hard to reach communities in the country.

"This new programme for the capital, working with 12 professional clubs, has focused over the last year on 20 police priority boroughs. It has exceeded all expectations.

"Today, the Premier League and MOPAC are committing funding to run the programme for a further two years."

Commander Mak Chishty, Metropolitan Police lead for community engagement, said: "The success of the Kicks Premier League scheme has not been solely about providing football opportunities for young people; it has turned many of them away from crime. Over 1,300 young people have been referred to the scheme by partner agencies such as the police, youth offending teams, pupil referral units and local authorities.

"It has provided hundreds of them with the oppor-

Stephen Greenhalgh, added: "Kicks is part of our London-wide mission to tackle gangs and youth crime in the capital. Programmes like this are making a real difference to young people by providing a positive alternative for young people at risk of crime.

tunity to improve their lives by gaining employment and offering training opportunities. In continuing to work closely with the Mayor of London and the Premier League, we can build upon the current success of the scheme, breaking down barriers between police and young people - allowing more of them to achieve qualifications which might not otherwise have been possible."

Levi Smith was referred to Kicks after an 18 month spell in a juvenile and then adult prison. He is now volunteering at Crystal Palace FC Foundation as an assistant coach as well as studying for an Access to Business course, which he hopes will assist him gaining a university place.

Levi, 20, said: "School definitely wasn't for me: I had no interest and felt I got no encouragement. After I left school and college, I was just on the streets causing trouble and hanging around with the wrong crowd.

"Ending up in prison was a big wake-up call and being transferred to an adult prison was a shock to my system. When I came out of prison, I was back living at home and was desperately looking for something to keep me occupied and off the streets.

"Since taking part in Kicks I think I've become a better person. I was very anti-social before, but working with a small group, I learnt how to get on with people and communicate better.

"I hadn't really had much of an interest in football before the course but the football coaching was fun as we got to work with all different age groups in the community.

"The team here have really supported me deal with things I found a challenge - even my short temper. Because I had been in prison for so long, if anyone irritated me, I just dealt with it in a physical way. The coaches helped me to find better ways of coping.

"The course has had a positive impact on my life because I've been socialising with others on the course and not hanging around with my old friends. I feel positive about future too and I've already been accepted onto a college course to study business. My attitude has changed so much and I feel more ready for training and eventually the workplace."

TALK OF THE TOWN

MUSIC ★ THEATRE ★ PUBS

*The entertainment scene
in West London*

Walking where the Beatles trod

ALTHOUGH there has never been such a money-making band as The Beatles – nor has any other band so spectacularly lost so much either.

In 1964 alone, at the very start of their global domination, they lost out on deals that would have earned, at today's prices, almost £760,000,000.

That was the massive loss that the Fab Four swallowed when, to try cash in on breaking big in the USA, Beatles aides bungled a merchandising deal that meant that 90 per cent of the fees went to the licensing company and just 10 per cent to the band and their management.

It wasn't Brian Epstein's finest hour when on his watch lawyers set up that arrangement. Hot off the back of 'I Want To Hold Your Hand' going to No.1 in the States, with all of the huge TV and radio publicity and coast-to-coast Beatlemania raging, The Beatles' licence was awarded to everything from bubblegum to toothbrushes, dishcloths, dolls and crockery.

One clothing company with a Beatles deal sold more than a million T-shirts in three days. Another, making Beatles wigs, received advance orders for 500,000 and was manufacturing at the break-neck rate of 15,000 a day.

But it was only late in the day

that Beatles manager Epstein realised the blunder and by the time he had struck another, more equitable, deal and writs and counter writs were flying for royalties claimed to be due and all of the legal action made major American firms so uneasy that they cancelled orders – costing a loss of merchandising revenue of almost £760,000,000, lost orders from Woolworth's and Penney's alone would have been worth £592,000,000 today.

No wonder that all students at LIPA, Paul McCartney's Liverpool university for performing arts, are now taught commercial contract law as a matter of course.

Cottage industries have always surrounded The Beatles; if you ever go to Liverpool you'll see that much of the city's economy is based on association with its most famous sons, with Beatles bars, hotels and gift shops all over the place.

But what you won't see – at least until here today – is The Beatles advertising anything.

Unlike former Sex Pistol John Lydon advertising butter, The Who plugging Coca Cola, Jefferson Airplane flogging Levi's, Bob Dylan promoting Victoria's Secret lingerie, Ozzy Osbourne hilariously doing his TV bit for I Can't Believe It's Not Butter and U2's deals with Apple, The Beatles were always above such stuff – well, almost always...

"We were offered everything from

Disney, Coca Cola and the hugest deals in Christendom and beyond, but we never took them because we thought 'Nah, it kind of cheapens it'," Paul McCartney has said.

Indeed so anti-advertising once were The Beatles that when their record company allowed Nike to use 'Revolution' in their commercials in 1987, lawyers for the band's company Apple Corps filed a suit to block the ad and for \$15 million in 'damages'.

The Beatles, said their lawyer at the time, "do not endorse or peddle sneakers or panty hose".

However, they did once endorse jeans. Only once and never again, The Beatles appeared in an advert, reproduced here for the first time since it appeared in 1963.

'From Me To You' was at No 1 in the UK charts and somehow John, Paul, George and Ringo were persuaded to become models, endorsing Lybro of Liverpool and the now-defunct company's range of high-waisted jeans.

The band were photographed for an eight-page advertising flyer that went out in their home city with the headline, 'The Beatles View Of The Merseyside Jean Scene'.

'Maximum Slimness? Here's the snap answer' announces Macca in the ad, while John declares that it's 'Nordijeans for the style-leader'.

Lybro's factory in Liverpool was sadly demolished in 1983, so Beatles fans are these days denied the opportunity to copy their heroes in 'the Flamenco look' that George reported was de rigueur with 'the smartest men in Spain', but it is surreal facts like these that you'll pick up in London from one of The Beatles remaining – and thriving – cottage industries, The Beatles Walks.

For £9 for a two-hour guided walk around the centre of the capital, Beatles tourists are shown where scenes from 'A Hard Day's Night' were filmed, the restaurant which featured in 'Help', the Marylebone register office where two Fabs were married, where Paul once lived with Jane Asher, the studios (not Abbey Road) where 'Hey Jude' was recorded, and such oddities as the public toilets made famous by John goofing about outside them dressed up as a hotel doorman – as opposed to the club that John made famous by playing on-

stage with a toilet seat around his neck, which is in Hamburg.

Beatlephiles are also led to the sites of the band's former offices in Savile Row – where they played their last public performance, on the roof – Paul's offices in Soho (where the photo-snapping crowds are not massively appreciated) and the site of the former Apple Shop, where Macca once whitewashed 'Hey Jude' promotionally on the windows and was told off by a Jewish neighbour who mistakenly-thought that the plug for the new single was part of some horror revival of the 'Juden Raus' campaign in Nazi Berlin.

"The most popular part of the tours is going to Abbey Road Studios," says Richard Porter, a superfan who has been running London Beatles Walks since 1988 and holds the title of 'Beatles Brain of Britain' for his encyclopaedic knowledge of such essential details like at which Oxford Street address did the Fabs record for a Christmas fan club single the otherwise never-released classic 'Please Don't Bring Your Banjo Back'?

Minutiae is big business in the Beatlefan business and the longing to do a selfie on the Abbey Road zebra crossing or tweet from the West End gallery where John met Yoko is in such demand that Richard Porter is kept busy conducting more than 300 tours a year.

"People come from all over the world to do the walks," says Richard, "the most extreme example of that was a guy who escaped from North Korea in order to get to London to do the tour as a pilgrimage."

"There can be around 50 people on each tour, although on one memorable occasion in 2009 we had 1,500 fans up at the Abbey Road crossing and it was screened live on Russian TV."

For times and details of the walks go to www.beatlesinlondon.com



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TALK OF THE TOWN ★ *The entertainment scene in West London*

Gut-busting comedy takes the biscuit

● 500 EVENTS LINED UP FOR THE VAULTS FESTIVAL

THE charity Anorexia & Bulimia Care estimates that up to 13 million people in Britain have such a psychological problem with eating that it leaves them on a constant diet.

No laughing matter? Not according to Helen Duff, who launches her comedy show about anorexia at the capital's six-week Vault Festival which begins on January 28th

"If eating disorders are too hard for you to stomach, you're obviously not hungry enough," says Helen, whose show *Vanity Fights Back* won a nomination for a Fringe First prize at last year's Edinburgh Festival.

Vanity Bites Back is an anarchic comedy about anorexia, attention seeking and

finding the freedom to bite back at the stigma surrounding mental illness.

A combination of clown, multi-rolling and cupcakes, it opens up a vital conversation about an issue that gains strength from silence as Helen's voice of experience guides her audience through moments of hysterical revelation and shocking poignancy – encouraging them to laugh at their own anxieties.

"It's a taboo-busting, gut-busting show that truly takes the biscuit," says Helen.

The creative festival from Heritage Arts takes place in the Leake Street Waterloo Tunnels, with more than 500 events and 80 acts.

With more than 30,000 tickets available, 500 individual events and over 80 artistic groups, the line-up comprises some of the most exciting emerging

artists and companies in a programme of music, performance, dance, comedy, discussions, debates and one-off late night events, all taking place in a secret maze of underground tunnels.

ULT acts this year include dangerous comedy monster Red Bastard, masculine feminist pop act Dani Frankenstein, Superbolt Theatre's man versus monster adventure *Jurassic Park*, one-man-shows from the likes of Move To Stand, Rolemap Arts, Matthew Bellwood, Jessica Burgess, Tristan Bernays, cabaret from taxidermist Charlie Tuesday Gates and her roadkill gang, The Broken Dream, ensemble theatre from Dumb-show, d'Animate, Crawley & Co, Scaffold State, Edinburgh sensations House of Blakewell and many many more.

Favourites from 2014, The Kansas Smitty's House Band return to entertain visitors in the bar and the VAULT Lates also make a comeback - debauched one-off extravaganzas that take over the caverns of VAULT well into the early hours, curated by some of the nation's best party people.

Alongside ticketed performances, anyone can join VAULT underground at the Festival Bar, open to the public every night for "drinks, dancing and discovery".

◆ VAULT 2015 will build on the success of the 2014 Festival which saw over £100,000 go into the coffers of the participating artists, a result of the Heritage Arts Company's efforts to help emerging companies control how their



■ ANARCHIC: Helne Duff presents her "Vanity Fight Back" comedy

work is brought to an audience or a market.

The second incarnation of VAULT in 2014 more than doubled the size and impact of the 12-day inaugural festival in 2012. Over 20,000 tickets were sold last

year, with guests able to choose from 60 different events across the six weeks; up to 20 events were on offer each night across the seven chambers of The Vaults.

Full programme listing available at www.vaultfestival.com

The sexiest voice in town returns to Maxilla

SOPHIE Gatacre, the owner of the "sexiest voice" at the Edinburgh Fringe, according to critics, returns to the Maxilla Social Club in Maxilla Walk W10 on Friday, January 23rd.

Sophie will be presenting her one woman comedy drama, "Samantha's Hotline", described as "a work of genius" by The Spectator magazine after her appearance at the Edinburgh, Camden and Henley fringe.

After appearing at the Adelaide Fringe, one critic wrote: "Gatacre's humour and performance is compa-

rable to Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley in 'Absolutely Fabulous' with string parallels in the story line as well.

"She connects with the audience by including them in the show... she brings every emotion to the performance and the multiple roles in the plays".

Tickets for the Maxilla Social Club performance are £12 to include food, a film (Woodstock) and dancing until 1 am. The show starts at 7.30pm and last 90 minutes.



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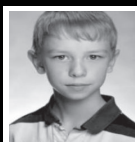
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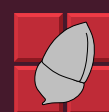
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Harry vows to see it through



LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW

DEFIANT Harry Redknapp has been in the game far too long to allow some mischief-making newspaper reports questioning his future at QPR to trouble him but a public vote of confidence from the club's chairman is still welcome.

"I have spoken to the owner Tony Fernandes five times this week and he's not mentioned anything," said Redknapp after Saturday's 2-0 home defeat by Manchester United.

Press speculation has been rife in recent days but Fernandes was keen to set the record straight. On Monday he issued a statement saying: "There's been a lot of rumours about Harry's position being under threat, so I thought it was time to end all the speculation, so everyone can focus on the challenge ahead."

"I firmly believe Harry is the best man to get us out of the position we currently find ourselves in."

"He has great experience and having spoken to him at length over the last week or so, he is determined to turn this around and help us maintain our Premier League status."



Rob Green made great saves to deny Man United
Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

● RUGBY UNION

Hammersmith & Fulham... 35 St Albans... 22

Hammersmith and Fulham were back to winning ways over the weekend with a five-try haul against spirited St Albans.

Hammers stole a march on the visitors, with centre Tony Bryant dotting down under the sticks for the first of his two tries. St Albans hit back with a try of their own and added another to lead 12-10 at half-time.

Sustained pressure from Hammers, with strong ball-carrying from forwards James Boysons, who bagged himself a try, and Paddy O'Boyle saw the home side gain a good foothold in the opposition half. Hammers' full-back Neil McClure and winger Jamie Lo touched down with two late tries in a free-flowing second-half to run out 35-22 winners.

Head coach Dave Mannion said: "We were pleased to get back to winning ways and credit to St Albans, they did very well to keep in the game and it was probably closer than the scoreline suggests. We just managed to take our opportunities when they came."

Hammers begin their defence of the Middlesex Cup this weekend, with a Hurlingham Park (2pm) fixture on Saturday against league rivals Staines.

"This is Harry's squad of players, so he is the man to move us forward."

He added: "The performance against Manchester United showed the players are behind him and that they have the stomach for the fight."

Redknapp insisted he is not feeling the heat. "Do I look like I feel under pressure?" he said.

"When I get home I'll take my wife for a nice meal somewhere, have a nice bottle of wine, then in the morning wake up and take my dogs for a walk. My life's very good."

Redknapp is being written off in some quarters as 'yesterday's man', one of the few survivors of a dwindling old school supposedly not in tune with modern methods favoured by coaches who have a slavish devotion to technical data, sports science and note-taking from the touchline.

He would love nothing more than to prove those doubters wrong – and who would bet against him retaining QPR's top flight status?

His side have been indebted to Charlie Austin's 13 goals so far this season. The Premier League's December Player of the Month, who was watched by England boss Roy Hodgson on Saturday, has accounted for more than half of their 23 league goals. Those who question Redknapp's judgement should also consider that, 18 months ago, he signed former non-league striker Austin from Burnley for between £3m and £4m – and now he is probably worth at least four times that amount.

QPR are 19th, a point behind Burnley in 17th, and have not won in the league since beating West Bromwich Albion on December 20, a run that now stretches to five matches. "We're still in amongst it," Redknapp said. "The bottom seven teams, there's nothing in it. Everton downwards, it's going to be very close and I think we've got a real chance."

"If we can get another striker in on loan, then we'll stay up – no problem. We're just short of an option up there, someone with a bit of pace."

Rangers have been beaten just three times at home all season but only total die-hards could have reasonably expected another Loftus Road win against Manchester United.

Even so, they far from disgraced themselves. Austin would have increased his tally to at least 15 but for the brilliance of United keeper David de Gea, who also pulled off other vital saves to deny Rangers.

And the spirit shown by QPR from the first whistle to the last emphasised that for all the media meddling, Redknapp's team are still playing for him, giving their all. No question about that.

Redknapp rammed home the point in his post-match press conference: "That was possibly as good as we've played at home all year."

"At 1-0 down we were pushing everyone forward. We got in to some great positions at the end but couldn't quite find that killer final ball."

"We got done on the break at the end – we only had one back as we pushed (Steven) Caulker forward."

"We were looking for the goal and it was always a possibility that they'd break away and score – but the 2-0 final scoreline was an injustice."

"I couldn't be more pleased with the effort and commitment of the players – they were fantastic."

"Unfortunately we lost concentration for their first goal and it's cost us but I couldn't fault the lads – they kept on going."

In an end-to-end spectacle in W12, both Rob Green and de Gea shone and Redknapp added: "De Gea is a great keeper and so is Rob. They were both excellent today, making some superb saves."

"Rob is playing some of the best football of his career – he's been outstanding for us this season."

Their absence from this weekend's FA Cup fourth round means QPR have a two-week break before resuming their quest for crucial league points at Stoke on Saturday week (Jan 31).



John Terry is still hungry for more cup glory

■ From back page

"We want to play against the best but any of the players who will be in Chelsea's midfield will be world-class. It will be nice to play against the likes of Matic and Mikel who will be sitting there in midfield. If I'm in the team, I will be playing in a more advanced role and so will most likely be up against them. It will be good to get that experience."

Knott is not counting his chickens that he will even play. "We have been playing in a diamond shape in midfield. The gaffer (Phil Parkinson) might change the formation if necessary, so we will see what happens. Hopefully, I'll be on the team sheet, but whoever the gaffer puts out, I hope we run and be patient and put on a good performance for our fans."

"I have played a couple of times at Stamford Bridge as a youth, mostly at the end of the season, but I think it will be a bit different this time with a packed crowd."

Does Knott, who has played for England up to under-20 level, have anything to prove to Chelsea?

"No," he said. "I think I was only young when I left there – about 17. I was playing left back at the time. I think that season I scored a few bangers – it was probably the most I've scored in a season other

Bradford 'buzzing' for big Bridge cup tie

than this season (he's scored seven so far, three in the two games against Millwall in the last round). It was a great time there and it makes you realise what you can have when you get to the top in the academy."

"The facilities there are brilliant. Obviously the boys are doing great with the likes of Lewis Baker out on loan. It's a well-run club but I don't think I have anything to prove. There are not too many players left from my time there."

"But I think some staff are, like Gerry Harvey, Jim Fraser and Joe Edwards. It will be good to see Joe – he was only starting out with the under-9s when I was there. They all thought I was a good player."

"It will be a great day out for all at Bradford against one of the best teams in the world."

"It was difficult to leave such a massive club like Chelsea but maybe leaving made me prove myself to other people."

Family support

Knott will have the support of loads of family at Stamford Bridge: "I'm going to need about 50 tickets to accommodate all my family and friends who want to come to the Bridge. I don't know if I'm going to get my hands on them but I'll try."

"The fans at Bradford are great. When we played Leeds it was unbelievable. They travel all over. I think about 500 travelled down to Yeovil to watch us on Saturday – a six-hour trip. I hope they all enjoy the build-up and the day itself. The players, fans and the whole town is buzzing at the thought of the Chelsea game."

What went through his mind when Bradford

was drawn out of the hat to face the Blues?

"I was watching the draw at home with my fiancée and Chelsea came up, so I had a little cheer to myself. I would have taken Chelsea or West Ham. It's a massive draw for the club. When we have beaten Chelsea, we will take West Ham," he laughed.

"This is a great opportunity for the club and my family. I hope my grandad, who is ill at the moment, can come down for the game. My mum and dad will be there and lots of family from down south too, so it will be great for me personally."

Knott is realistic about their chances at Stamford Bridge but knows what it will take to cause an upset:

"Striker Jon Stead has played at the highest level, so I think we can get at them," he said. "Stead is a great player. If we can turn Chelsea, get the ball in the air, and try and make it into a bit of a battle, we might have a chance. If you give them too much respect, you can suffer in the way they beat Swansea."

"They can go into gear seven. But if we give it 100 per cent, go in for every challenge and run ourselves into the ground, I think our fans will appreciate that and whatever the score is they will clap us off the pitch. We will do what we can and hope it's a cup upset."

In awe

One man Knott will face and have to get past is Chelsea skipper John Terry.

Terry has lifted the FA Cup on four occasions but is still in awe of the competition and wants to win it more times.

"You know, I'm English," he said. "I've grown up with watching the FA Cup on TV, it means the world to me. I know it means the world to the supporters. If you don't get there, people kind of rule it out – 'ah, it's not as big any more'. But when you get there, there's nothing bigger than to play at Wembley – one of the best stadiums in the world, in front of your supporters and on a great pitch as well. So, for me, it'd be great to go back there."

Blue & White In Brief

■ **KYLE Scott's** late winner earned Chelsea U21s a 2-1 win against Porto and cemented their position at the top of their group in the Premier League International Cup and qualified them for the last eight.

The Portuguese led after 15 minutes through Silva before Kasey Palmer equalised with a brilliant strike from 35 yards. Both sides had chances to seal victory after the break but the hosts won it through a stoppage-time strike from substitute Scott.

Chelsea: Blackman, Chalobah (Scott 56), Houghton, Conroy, Dabo, Ake, Christensen, Loftus-Cheek, Mitchell, Ugbo (Sammut 75), Palmer (Adamczyk 69).

■ **CHELSEA U18s** booked a place in the FA Youth Cup fifth round with an emphatic 6-1 win against Huddersfield Town at Aldershot.

A Dominic Solanke hat-trick, two from Tammy Abraham and sub Kasey Palmer were on target for Blues.

The holders will now face a home tie against either Swansea City or Doncaster Rovers.

Chelsea: Collins, Aina, Tomori, Clarke-Salter (Sammut 67), Dasilva, Collett (Scott 68), Musonda, Boga; Abraham, Solanke, Brown (Palmer 76).

■ **THERE** was no disgrace in Fulham U21s losing 2-1 at home to table-topping Southampton.

The visitors took a two-goal lead inside 16 minutes before Ange-Freddy Plumain netted Fulham's 21st minute consolation.

Fulham: Rodak, Baba, Passley, Buatu, Evans, David, Sambou, O'Halloran (Richards 40), Eisfeld, Kacaniklic (Mesca 60), Plumain.

■ **LEFT-back Tayo Edun** earned Fulham U18s a 1-1 draw at home against Norwich City on Saturday.

Edun put Whites ahead following good work by Luca De La Torre and Aaron Redford.

The Canaries drew level when Fulham failed to deal with a long clearance.

Fulham: Norman, Fossey, Elworthy, Adebayo, Edun, Smile, Nabay, Walker, De La Torre, Humphrys, Redford.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Friday, January 23

West Ham Utd U21 v CHELSEA U21, 7.05.

Saturday, January 24

CHELSEA v Bradford City, FAC 4, 3.00

Sunderland v FULHAM, FAC 4, 3.00.

CHELSEA U18 v Norwich City U18, 12.00.

Brentford U18 v QPR U18, 12.00.

West Bromwich A. U18 v FULHAM U18, 12.00.

Monday, January 26

Swansea City U21 v QPR U21, 6.30.

Everton U21 v FULHAM U21, 7.00.

Tuesday, January 27

CHELSEA v Liverpool,

Capital One Cup SF2, 7.45.

SPORT

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'Respect' for Gerrard

JOSE Mourinho decided to break his vow of silence after last week's media blackout following his FA charge of bringing the game into disrepute over allegations of a campaign against his side.

He is challenging the charge of course and I know that the club, in his defence, is putting together what it believes is a catalogue of incidents that has happened on the pitch this season and documented media content to prove his case.

Well, all I can say to that is: "Good luck with that one, Jose."

So the Special One returned to chat to me and the other hacks following his side's 5-0 drubbing of Swansea on Saturday that, following Arsenal's dramatic win at Manchester City on Sunday, keeps Blues five points clear at the summit of the Premier League.

And he was back to his jovial best.

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LWN Sport went to press ahead of Tuesday's Capital One Cup semi-final, first leg against Liverpool at Anfield but before that he was quite effusive in his praise of Reds' skipper Steve Gerrard who is leaving Anfield at the end of the season. So much so that he asked the Chelsea faithful to refrain in their deliciously taunting chant of Gerrard, who last season slipped allowing Demba Ba to nip in and score a famous goal in the 2-0 win at Anfield that effectively halted their title challenge.

Mourinho said: "That song that my fans have, I don't like, I don't like at all."

"A couple of times, OK, it's good fun, but to go on and on and on, especially for a player like him, I don't like. He deserves respect and we don't need that song, we have so many other ones."

Mourinho's respect for Gerrard goes further in his

decision not to play for a club where he could potentially face Liverpool and score against them. "I love his quote that he would never score a goal against Liverpool," said Mourinho.

"I love these words. I understand why. He was almost coming to Chelsea and he didn't – and I respect that."

Mourinho, in his first spell at the club, wanted to create the best midfield in England and Gerrard would have fitted like a glove into it.

"I was dreaming of playing him with Claude Makelele and Frank Lampard," he said.

While most Chelsea fans will be asking for the sick bag at Mourinho's comments, they can take some comfort that whatever the result on Tuesday, they have the return leg next Tuesday to finish off the Scousers and book a place at Wembley next month.

But before then, on Saturday, Chelsea have a little matter of a fourth round FA Cup tie at the Bridge to contend with.

Chelsea meet League One Bradford City and one man looking forward to facing the likes of Eden Hazard and Nemanja Matic is City's left-midfielder



This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

Billy Knott.

Knott, 22, was a star of Chelsea's youth side from 2007 until 2011 alongside starlet Josh McEachran before moving on to Sunderland. A succession of loans followed until the young Canvey Island powerhouse signed for Bradford City in July last year.

Canvey Island is on the south Essex coast and thus a West Ham stronghold. Knott is still a Hammers' fan.

"Yeah, I'm a West Ham fan," he said. "I was at the club from the age of six until 11. Then my family went out to live out in Spain, near Alicante. We were out there for about seven months. Obviously we were planning to stay out there longer but me and my little brother didn't like it, so we came back. I went on a few trials and I really enjoyed it at Chelsea, so I signed there."

I first came across Knott when I went to watch Chelsea's youth side face Fulham in 2011 – ostensibly to check out McEachran. I came away from the Cobham training ground thinking I had seen a Chelsea star of the future in Knott. He scored two great goals, trademark thunderbolts in a 3-2 win for Blues.

"I do remember that game," he said. "We had some great players, like Josh McEachran, Billy Clifford, George Saville. They are still very good friends with me now. They are pleased that I'm going back to Chelsea on Saturday. I still speak to them every day. They are all doing well at the moment too. Josh is a great player and I hope he gets the rub of the green soon."

"I'm really enjoying myself here. We had a good start to the season, we put a little run together and I think we went 12 games unbeaten. We pushed ourselves up the league. We lost 1-0 at Yeovil on Saturday, had very good chances to win the game but they dug in and defended well."

Was the Chelsea game on his mind?

"I think it's hard to put it out of your mind," he admitted. "The boys were flying into tackles but I think the fans are playing on it more than us. Obviously, had we won comfortably it would have been a different story. We should have won but it was a hard, old game and did not swing our way."

While Knott's side were losing 1-0 to bottom placed Yeovil, Chelsea were thrashing Swansea City 5-0.

Billy said of the result in South Wales: "To be honest, we did not look for the result straight away, only when we got on the bus, and we all had a little chuckle. You never know what is going to happen on the day and the FA Cup does bring up different stories."

"But Mourinho will want to win everything he can – he's renowned for that. Even their so-called reserve squad can boast a World-Cup winner in Andre Schurrle."

"I don't think it will be much different, it will still be world-class players against us. We have just got to see who we are up against on the day."

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



Focus on Craven Cottage

Ruiz gives Fulham timely boost

TWO wins in four days gave Fulham spirits a much needed lift ahead of a series of tough away games.

The midweek penalty shootout victory at snow-bound Wolverhampton Wanderers in the FA Cup replay earned Whites' a fourth round visit to Sunderland this Saturday.

No chance? Well, few gave Fulham a prayer when they were drawn away to Everton 40 years ago – and they went on to reach the Wembley final!

Sunderland, currently fifth from bottom of the Premier League and just a point clear of the drop zone, have bigger priorities than reaching the fifth round, so the Stadium of Light should hold no fears for Kit Symons' men.

Last Saturday's last-gasp 2-1 home win against Reading in the Championship ended a run of three league consecutive league defeats without scoring, a definite confidence-booster ahead of last night's (Wednesday) home clash with Nottingham Forest.

A draw looked on the cards until substitute Bryan Ruiz improvised brilliantly to head the winner from inside the six-yard box three minutes into stoppage time. Cauley Woodrow's

angled header from beyond the far post arrived behind Ruiz but he swivelled in mid-air to direct his header goalwards.

"It looked very much like it was going towards a draw, which probably would have been a fair enough result," Symons admitted. "They'll feel very aggrieved about it I'm sure."

"After they got the equaliser they were putting us under a bit of pressure from corners and crosses into our box. It's easy to say with hindsight but I always felt we had the quality to pop up with another goal. I didn't expect it to be quite so late but obviously delighted to see it go in."

"It was a little bit of a gamble in some respects, because it was a very attacking bench. We had Bryan, Cauley, Moussa (Dembélé), George Williams, Pat Roberts – real attacking options on the bench, so we knew if we were behind or level, there were things we could do to change the dynamic of our team to hopefully get the goal that we needed."

"I wouldn't have minded if the tea lady came on and scored today but it was brilliant for Bryan," he said. "He's a good guy and a very, very good player."

"I think it's fair to say he's not always had the easiest of times here but he showed his commitment. Also, before the goal, his running into the box was fantastic. He burst into the box for the initial cross and because of that he was still in there for the header back from Cauley."

Fulham could do with retaining Ruiz's attacking flair but the Fulham manager seems almost resigned to losing the Costa Rican, who is out of contract at the end of the season, either in the summer or possibly even during this January transfer window.

"I speak to Bryan regularly, as I do with all the players, and we're very up front and straight with each other, and he was very committed," says Symons.

"I had a good chat with him yesterday – he wanted to be involved. He's just come back from a little injury, so I involved him and he came on and scored the winner."

Alexander Kačaniklić had opened the scoring with a quality finish 10 minutes into the second-half. Symons praised the winger for his input, along with Ryan Tunnicliffe who also returned ahead of schedule from a loan deal away from the club.